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# THE TIMES

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Christmas prize  
quiz on  
the arts, page 9

## Mrs Thatcher not ready to compromise in EEC fund

Prime Minister is giving European leaders more chance to find some way to give the United Kingdom a broad balance between payments into and receipts from European Economic Community funds. Ministerial talks arranged in London are expected to signify that Britain is not ready to compromise, Whitehall said.

## Ministerial talks not sign of weakness

Mr. Peter Shore, the opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, responded strongly to reports that the Government might be offering to compromise on the EEC fund. He said: "It would be a humiliation for Mrs. Thatcher and a very serious setback to this country. If the objective of a broad balance was now to be abandoned, it would be quite contrary to the expressed wish of the Government. It would be a serious setback to this country."

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## Mr Murray makes last attempt at steel peace

By David Felton  
Labour Reporter

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, this morning meets leaders of 14 unions in the steel industry in a last-ditch attempt to head off a national steel strike on January 2.

The meeting at TUC headquarters in London will be held in an atmosphere of growing pessimism that a solution can be found to persuade the unions and the British Steel Corporation to leave their entrenched positions.

Mr Murray called in the unions after the breakdown of talks between the corporation and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the corporation's "find" pay offer of 5 per cent having been rejected.

With the confederation demanding an increase in line with the rate of inflation, the prospects of averting the industry's first official national strike look gloomy.

Senior British Steel executives will be in their offices today and if Mr Murray is able to build a bridge between the two sides, new negotiations could be held.

Last night, however, Mr William Sims, general secretary of the confederation, said: "I have to hope whatever that we shall be able to reach an agreement with the corporation. Unless the corporation can find some new money, there is no possibility of further meetings with them."

Mr Sims said that his union's arguments were being rejected by "the faceless ones" on the corporation board. "They are the ones who are saying that no money should be used at all and it is a tragedy that these people have no responsibility for the industry."

My members find it shocking that these people are probably making larger offers to their own workers than they are offering to us."

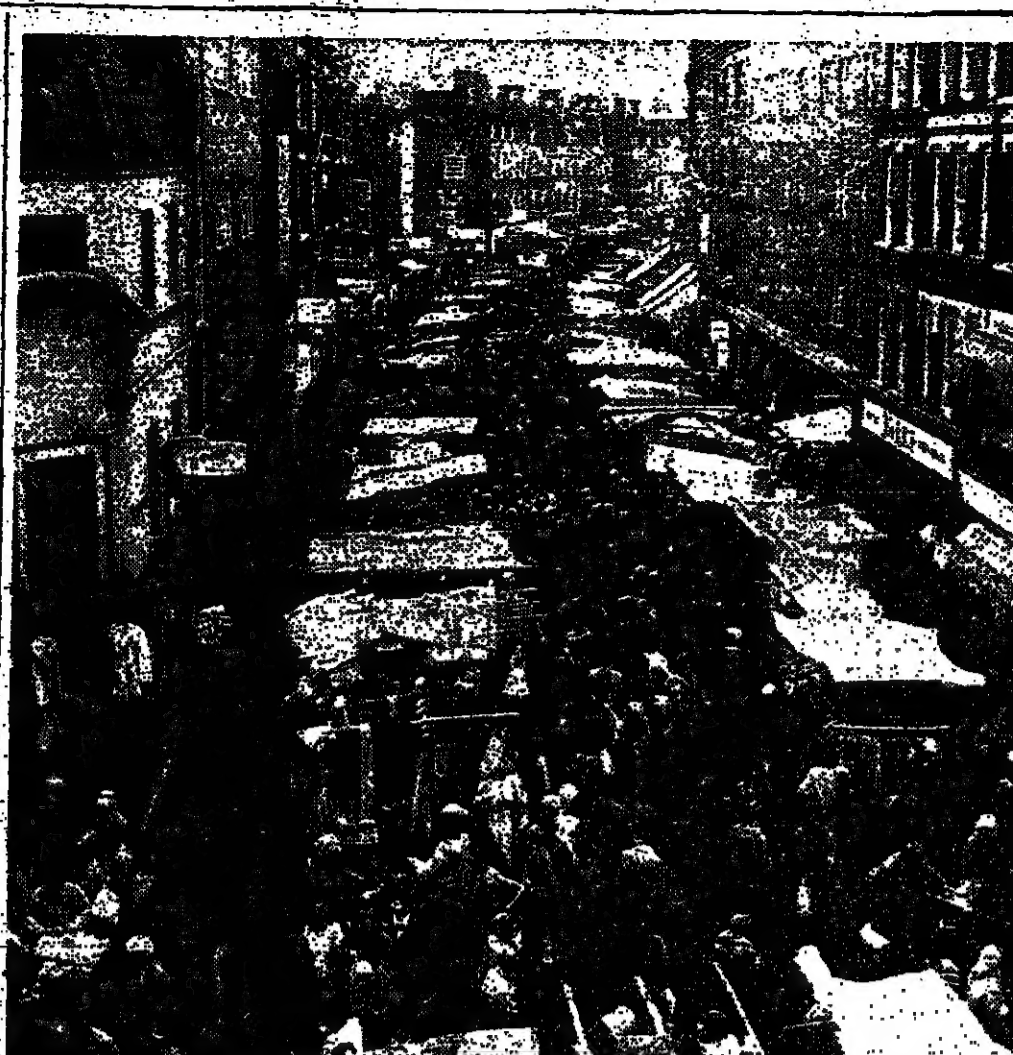
Replying to a suggestion from Mr Michael Gyles, vice-chairman of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, that the confederation should hold a secret ballot of the membership, Mr Sims said that his union's rules did not provide for ballots.

The strike decision had been taken only after a long and regional meetings indicated strong support for the action.

The best thing Mr Gyles could do to help the union was to get a ballot among members of the confederation, adding that if they think they are doing everything possible for British industry, Mr Sims said.

The offer from 2 to 5 per cent was conditional on the union agreeing to the abolition of the guaranteed minimum working week which costs £30m a year.

Mr Sims said that even if the corporation did make an offer, it would be a last-ditch attempt to head off a national steel strike on January 2.



A packed Petticoat Lane market on the last shopping Sunday before Christmas.

## Christmas rush starts on roads

The Christmas rush on the roads built up yesterday after a slow start on Friday. There was a four-mile queue on the north-bound carriageway of the M1. An accident on the slip-road at junction 10, just south of the M10 intersection, caused a seven-mile tailback.

Many minor accidents on the M1 were reported, and the Automobile Association said that motorists were driving too fast and too close together. Many petrol stations, including some on motorways, will be closed on Christmas Day and the morning organisations warned drivers to make sure they had enough fuel for the journey. More stations should be open on Boxing Day but there will still be a limited service.

Housewives who decided to wait until the last minute to buy the turkey for Christmas should find bargains today. Prices are at their lowest for some years.

After slow business at Smithfield Market, London, butchers will be selling off some birds at 40p to 50p a lb, about half the retail price in the high street shops where fresh birds are fetching up to 85p a lb.

The glut of turkeys this year will mean that many producers will lose money and withdraw from the market. Punters who gambled that London will have its first white Christmas for 10 years will probably be disappointed, the London Weather Centre said yesterday.

The forecast for today is rain and sleet. "The rain or sleet will probably have gone by Christmas morning. There is just a possibility there will be a sprinkle of snow in the capital, but the chances are very small," a forecaster said.

Four generations of the Royal family will be represented at a house party of 32 at Windsor Castle for Christmas. They will include the youngest baby, Lord Frederick Windsor, son of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who will be 80 next year.

The Queen left London on Thursday to prepare a traditional programme of festivities for her guests, who begin arriving at the weekend. Though the unofficial action by some Post Office van drivers in central London continued yesterday, the Post Office confirmed that all Christmas mail dates should be delivered on time.

From Harry Debellus  
Madrid, Dec. 23  
Fifty Spanish Roman Catholic theologians criticized the Vatican at the weekend for its handling of the case of Professor Hans Küng, the Swiss theologian who was barred by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from teaching.

A letter signed by the Spanish theologians, published today by the independent Madrid newspaper El País, expressed respect but energetic protest and said that the Vatican should have given Professor Küng "a last chance to reconsider his position."

## Tehran mediator sees little hope of early release for hostages

Tehran, Dec. 23. — Mr Sean MacBride, the former Irish Foreign Minister, emerged from talks here today on the American hostages crisis and said he was not optimistic that an early solution would be found.

Mr MacBride said after a working lunch with Mr Sadeq Oqabadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister: "There are no positive developments. I'm not particularly optimistic."

Earlier it was reported that the 50 American hostages being held by Iranian students had been moved from the embassy. Mr MacBride, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, who first came to Iran a month ago to try to negotiate an end to the crisis, arrived last night and went straight to the Foreign Ministry for two hours of talks with Mr Oqabadeh.

Asked if the position had changed since he was last in Iran, Mr MacBride said: "I'm inclined to think things are worse. He said forthcoming elections in Iran and the United States were contributing to an entrenchment of views in both countries."

Mr MacBride, a founder member of Amnesty International, said he was aware that Mr Oqabadeh had mentioned his name as a possible member of an international grand jury to investigate alleged American crimes against Iran. But he said his participation was not raised in the latest talks with the Iranian Foreign Minister. Mr MacBride said he planned to leave Tehran for Dublin tomorrow. He would not be visiting the hostages.

They have been held since the embassy was stormed by student followers of Ayatollah Khomeini seven weeks ago today. A well-informed Roman Catholic source said here that the hostages had been moved from the embassy to an unidentified spot in Tehran. The students had long talks today with a representative of the Roman Catholic Church regarding preparations for priests to visit the hostages on Christmas Eve.

"The hostages are no longer in the embassy but we may not yet know where they are being held," the source said. Unconfirmed reports indicated that the hostages may have been moved to the model prison in Vah, north-west of Tehran.

Cardinal Duval, the Archbishop of Algiers, who for 35 years has worked for understanding between the Christian and Muslim worlds, will arrive here tomorrow to visit the hostages, a diplomatic source said. The Cardinal, who was invited by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said in Algiers today that he would not be a mediator between the United States and Iran but would show "brotherly love for people who are suffering."

The frail 76-year-old clergyman was made Cardinal in 1965 in recognition of his work for closer relations between Islam and Roman Catholicism. He is a friend of Pope John Paul II, whom he knew in Poland. Ayatollah Khomeini reiterated, in a meeting in the holy city of Qom yesterday with a group of French parliamentarians, that those of the hostages thought to be spies "will be tried in this big international trial."

More than 20,000 workers from Tehran's industrial belt today marched on the embassy to demand that the hostages be tried. Clergymen leave: Two groups of American clergymen were on their way to Iran today, one to officiate at Christmas services for the hostages, the other to seek their release (David Cross writes from Washington).

The first group of six clergymen, representing the Baptist, Methodist and Episcopal churches, left New York last night for talks with Iranian leaders. A spokesman for the delegation said that the Iranian authorities had been "exceedingly receptive and helpful to us on our plans," but he declined to say exactly what his group had in mind.

The other delegation of three clergymen, led by Rev William Howard, the black President of the National Council of Protestant and Orthodox denominations, was leaving the United States tonight on what is described as "a strictly religious and pastoral mission." A spokesman said the clergymen were not going to negotiate with the Iranians but to help the hostages celebrate Christmas. Their visit was authorized by Ayatollah Khomeini at the end of last week.

Ayatollah blamed, page 4

## Man who spied for Guy Burgess may have been recruited by Prof Blunt

Mr Cairncross, exposed as a source of Office information for Burgess, the traitor to Russia, is thought to have been recruited by Anthony Blunt as a member of the party.

In 1936 Mr Cairncross, brother of Sir Alec Cairncross, former economic adviser to the government, joined the Foreign Office, Britain's top of the civil service, for that year. By this time he had apparently abandoned his left-wing politics.

He said: "I was dropping things gradually because after a time it became clear to me this was not my spiritual family." Having developed an interest in French literature, he found that Communist critical works were crucial to his understanding of French literature.

Mr Cairncross to show him notes and character sketches made while working at the Foreign Office. Mr Cairncross said: "We had talks and Burgess said: 'Can I have a look?' If I were a spy-master somewhere they would not be the sort of thing I would regard as not intelligence. I gave Burgess opinions about what Britain was doing."

After the outbreak of the war, the meetings between Mr Cairncross and Mr Burgess ended. Mr Cairncross who lives in retirement in Rome, said: "I was surprised when Mr Cairncross came to see me. Burgess never told me he was a Communist, let alone a Communist secret agent. I had lived in terror ever since Burgess and McLean fled to Russia. It put everything in an entirely new light." He was asked to resign and did so.

## Climbers say they crossed Yeti's trail

A British expedition which conquered a 19,840ft Himalayan peak for the first time found what it says is the best evidence so far of the existence of the Yeti or "Abominable Snowman."

The expedition, just back from Nepal, found distinct footprints in the Hinku Valley and claims to have heard the Yeti's scream-like calls.

The lead climber, Squadron Leader John Edwards, from Shrewsbury, said yesterday: "This has changed me from something of a sceptic to a realist. There is a strange creature in the Himalayas."

"One footprint we found was a really clear example and I think our pictures will prove to be the best taken yet. What is more, we heard this high-pitched scream and our Sherpas immediately reacted, saying it was the call of the Yeti. We have brought back dung samples for analysis."

## Europe's rocket fails again

Kourou, French Guiana. — The second attempt to launch the European-built Ariane rocket had to be cancelled today because of malfunctions in the third stage of the rocket.

The first launch, eight days ago, was cancelled because one of the four engines of the first stage was not working properly. The rocket has been built by the 10-nation European Space Agency, UPL.

## Spanish theologians protest at Küng affair

From Harry Debellus  
Madrid, Dec. 23  
Fifty Spanish Roman Catholic theologians criticized the Vatican at the weekend for its handling of the case of Professor Hans Küng, the Swiss theologian who was barred by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from teaching.

A letter signed by the Spanish theologians, published today by the independent Madrid newspaper El País, expressed respect but energetic protest and said that the Vatican should have given Professor Küng "a last chance to reconsider his position."

The letter concluded: "Let it be known to the teaching leadership of the Catholic Church that it can count on our sincere evangelical loyalty." Saying "yes" and "amen" to everything, "would not be taking the teachings seriously."

The theologians include professors from the Pontifical University of Salamanca, the Jesuit University of Comillas, the Madrid seminary, the theology faculty of the University of Granada and other teaching centres. The Spaniards said of Professor Küng: "We feel solidarity with him in his personal drama, although we do not offer him a blank cheque for each and every point of his theology, and he would not ask us to."

The letter added, "It seems contradictory that the ecclesiastical authorities should insist on proclaiming human rights in society, when within the Church itself these rights are clearly violated."

German bishops called: The Pope has invited members of the West German Bishops' Conference to Rome to discuss the case of Professor Küng, a spokesman at Tübingen University said today. Professor Küng's right to teach at Tübingen has not yet been formally withdrawn by his bishop in West Germany and it was hoped that a solution could be found. Dr Karl-Josef Kuschel, of the Ecumenical Research Institute, said: "The West German church leaders, including Cardinal Höffner, chairman of the Bishops' Conference, have been invited to the Vatican between Christmas and the New Year, he said."

Professor Küng conferred with the bishop of Rottenburg, Stuttgart, Mr Georg Moser, last night, and today, Mr Moser returns last night from Rome, where he met the Pope to discuss Professor Küng's position. Dr Kuschel said: "The bishop had not sent out formal letters withdrawing Professor Küng's right to teach — the Missio Canonica — authorizing the search for a replacement, he said. In Bern, a Swiss movement 'for human rights in the Church' accused the Vatican of acting in an authoritarian manner and launched a petition in support of the professor. Reuter. Leading article, page 11

Crash on hill near Ankara kills 39 in Turkish flight

Ankara, Dec. 23. — Passengers rescued three passengers and a stewardess from the burning wreckage of a Turkish airliner which crashed on a hill near here today killing 39 people.

Reports said the Fokker F28 turbofan aircraft had broken into four or five pieces. There was little hope of finding other survivors.

The aircraft had been flying from the Black Sea town of Samsun to Ankara with 39 passengers and four crew members. The last radio contact shortly before it was to land in Ankara. All on board were believed to be Turks.

Troops and civilian rescue teams were working in darkness and bitter cold at the crash site, on a small hill near the village of Gucuk, about 19 miles from Ankara.

The airport has been closed to most flights for the past three days because of thick fog. Officials said the cause of the crash was not known.

Reports said bodies and fragments of the plane were scattered near Gucuk village. They said the main body of the engine was smouldering, making it difficult for rescuers to approach.

One villager said he saw the surviving stewardess emerging from the plane's emergency door and walking towards a bush area.

Officials were looking for the "Black Box", which records communications between cockpit and control tower — Agency France-Press, Reuter and AP.

### WHY CHICKEN AND VEAL MAY LEAVE A NASTY TASTE IN YOUR MOUTH

We don't want to spoil the festive season, but will chicken and veal ever taste the same to you again?

The intensive system of farming means for example that, four or five hens stand in a cage little bigger than your television screen all their adult lives.

Veal calves are kept in crates less than 2 feet wide and are hardly able to move. Their flesh is kept unnaturally pale by the reduction of iron in their diet.

These systems are still legal and lawful in Britain today.

Is the price of chicken and veal too high to pay, not in terms of money, but of animal suffering? The RSPCA fights to prevent cruelty to all creatures 365 days of the year.

If you believe that the intensive methods of farming are unnecessary and inhumane and would like to help put an end to them, cut out, complete and post the coupon below today.

RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, Sussex RH12 1JH.

I realise this campaign is costing a lot of money and would like to help with a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me details of membership of the RSPCA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Next time you have chicken or veal will you be able to stomach it?

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## HOME NEWS

## 'Everse and absurd' water charges act may be repealed

Christopher Warman, Government spokesman, said today that the Government is considering repealing the Water Equalization Act, 1977, which imposed charges on water users for the cost of treating sewage.

Mr Warman said the Government was considering the Act because it was "everse and absurd" and that it was "not in the interests of the country".

## Charge to Asians' NHS treatment

Asian doctors in Birmingham are to meet health representatives early next week to discuss ways of dealing with the charges for NHS treatment during summer visits that normally are free.

Asian living in inner-city areas of Birmingham have been charged up to £5 by some doctors during summer visits that normally are free.

General Practitioner, Dr. William Nicol, told the Birmingham area health authority.

## Food labelling rules 'rograde' for Britain

Clayton Correspondent. EEC rules on food labelling will be "retrograde" for Britain, according to a report to the Government by the Food Standards Commission.

## Sailing for disabled in special yacht

Mr. Hurdall, who is disabled, said: "It is doing everything we hoped for. It is very fast and exciting but it is absolutely stable. Quite severely disabled people have proved that they can be out on the water and get out of it with very little assistance."

## Tuning in to a change of policy at Cardiff

From Tim Jones, Cardiff. When Cardiff Broadcasting, the second independent radio station in Wales, comes on the air next year its progress will be closely followed by interested parties throughout Britain.

For the station represents a radical change of policy for the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which has previously granted franchises to wholly professional media men backed by big money who pursue success on a mixture of pop and prattle.

Cardiff Broadcasting claims to be Britain's first truly community radio because it gives listeners the opportunity of influencing the type of programmes to be broadcast.

Cardiff Broadcasting was born when a few people involved in the media, community work and the arts decided to try for the franchise and presented Lady Florence, chairwoman of the IBA, and her board members with a package quite different from the usual application.

## 20 hurt in river disco accident

Twenty people were taken to Greenwich District Hospital after the Swanage Queen, a floating Thames discotheque, ran into the river bank early yesterday.

## Wallabies safeguarded

From Our Correspondent, Chesterfield. The future of the colony of wild wallabies on Staffordshire moorlands has been safeguarded by the Peak Park Planning Board.

## 'Big dish', built for £670,000 in 1957, would now cost £15m, Sir Bernard Lovell says

## Jodrell Bank telescope 'is good for another 20 years'

From John Chatter, Jodrell Bank, Cheshire. The Jodrell Bank radio telescope, built more than twenty years ago and originally valued at an estimated £150,000, is good for at least another twenty years, according to its creator, Sir Bernard Lovell, whose impending retirement has just been announced.

The "big dish" standing on the Cheshire Plain near Chelford, built in an atmosphere of arguments and recalcitrance over its cost and other factors, is still one of the most sought-after scientific instruments in the world, Sir Bernard told *The Times*.

It has carried out 130,000 hours of research, operating for 24 hours a day at a net cost of about £10 an hour, and is visited by about 100,000 people every year.

It cost £670,000 to build in 1957 and Sir Bernard was in dire trouble at the time with the Public Accounts Committee, which was then investigating the Government's share of the money.

Dr Smith is being released from his present post by the Science Research Council in the world and importance of the telescope, which was rescued.

His new appointment until April 1, 1982, Sir Bernard Lovell, who is approaching the academic retirement age of 67, is due to leave next year but is delaying his retirement until October, 1981.

The prime purpose of the Jodrell Bank telescope has always been to add to man's knowledge of the Universe by recording radio emissions from bodies in space (first seen but not recognized by radar operators in the 1940s).

But it was its "secondary role" in tracking satellites and space vehicles that brought it and the world fame and importance of the telescope, which was rescued.

## Doctors call for law on barbiturates

Britain's doctors say that the police should have the same powers to control the illegal use of barbiturate drugs as they have where heroin is concerned.

Dr. Frank Wells, medical secretary of the British Medical Association's board of science, said yesterday that all branches of the medical profession, family doctors, consultants and junior doctors, had agreed that barbiturates should be treated as a misuse of drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Dr Wells, who has led a fight against barbiturates, as he did earlier against amphetamines, said the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs would be informed of the action.

"We have succeeded in convincing doctors that they should prescribe other less dangerous drugs. Barbiturates will still be needed in special cases, for treating epilepsy, for example, but the amounts have been reduced to the point where they are controllable."

## Search widens after £3m cannabis haul

Police and customs men were searching yesterday for a gang responsible for £3m of herbal cannabis found at Seaforth Docks, Liverpool. Two tons of the drug was packed in a container on the vessel *Astronmer* after it berthed last week from Jamaica.



Sir Bernard Lovell who is retiring from the 'big dish'.

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## Shops confused over new sale price rules

By Robin Young, Consumer Affairs Correspondent. Bargain offers in the Christmas sales this year may not always be what they seem.

Although the Government has introduced new regulations on price marking, a subject about which the Office of Fair Trading has been concerned since 1975, there is still widespread confusion about the rules, which are being widely disregarded.

Newspapers' special offers are subject to the pricing regulations. *The Observer* has had several offers in successive issues in recent weeks in terms of which the Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order, 1975, is broken.

They included a Tower Slo-Cooker at £18.95 "saving up to £2" on shop prices; a microwave "saving up to £2 on shop prices"; travel slippers "saving about £3.30"; Christmas lights "up to £1.10"; and an offer of copper watering cans and troughs "saving on shop prices" about £1.50 and "about £2".

## Landlords win decisions on farm inheritance

An important step towards clarifying the rules for inheritance of tenanted farms was taken last week. The House of Lords reached decisions in two cases connected with those of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976, which cover the inheritance of tenanted farms.



Hugh Clayton

ious of new landlords who are not themselves farmers. The Act was widely welcomed by tenants but criticized by landowners on two grounds. First, it deprived landowners of the right to dispose of their land as they wished. That objection has been well publicized. The second has not.

It was that landowners considered that tenants were shamelessly eager to seize upon the Act as a means of building into their tenancy agreements a degree of security which was not present when they signed them and for which they had not paid.

Landowners have a strong lobby in the Country Landowners' Association. There is a separate organization for tenants, but they have been ably represented by the National Farmers' Union whose membership also includes many owners.

They issued a joint statement in November after bargaining for more than a year about the need to change the inheritance sections of the 1976 Act. They said that they both agreed that "a major factor causing the decline of the agricultural landlord/tenant system has been the penal and discriminatory taxation on private landlords which they have both asked the Government to remedy."

It certainly did not take them a year to agree about that; they could have done so in the first 10 minutes of their first bargaining session. The official version of their disagreement is that the association offered concessions on fixing farm rents if the union would accept that the inheritance rules for new tenancies would last for one generation instead of the present three. The union, however, would not accept that the Act should be diluted in that way.

The extent of their disagreement is much deeper and wider than that, however. Evidence for that can be found in comments about the Northfield committee on the ownership and occupancy of farmland. The committee published a long and confused report in July.

Some 18 months ago Lord Northfield, chairman of the committee, told the Farmers' Club in London: "What the NFU are putting to us is this: if an estate is put on the market the tenants should have a pre-emptive right to buy their holdings rather than that they should go automatically to auction."

## Your Christmas and New Year Telegram services.

INLAND TELEGRAMS		
We will accept telegrams by telephone or by telex at any time but delivery arrangements will be:		
Dec 25	Matters of Life and Death only	Matters of Life and Death only
Dec 26	Matters of Life and Death only	Sunday Service:
Jan 1	Public Holiday Services	Matters of Life and Death only
Jan 2	Normal Service	Sunday Service:

Contact was maintained to a distance of 22,462,000 miles.

Very soon afterwards the last of Jodrell Bank's financial difficulties were resolved, a final £50,000 being paid by Lord Nuffield personally and by the Nuffield Foundation, resulting in the present title of the establishment.

Although Sir Bernard has said in his books that he found the wartime years frustrating, it was his association with radar and, in particular, with Professor P. M. S. (later Lord) Blackett that led to his becoming the pioneer of radio astronomy in Britain.

The two men wrote a joint paper (Professor Blackett re-wrote Sir Bernard's draft in a Westminster air raid shelter during a London air raid) on the possibility of obtaining radar echoes from ionization caused by large cosmic ray showers.

After the war, on return to Manchester University physics department, Sir Bernard managed to buy at scrap prices enough Army and RAF radar equipment to begin his experiments on land at Jodrell Bank owned by the university.

The tasks of tracking and monitoring satellites and space craft has tailed off since the Americans reduced their space equipment after the landing on the Moon, and Jodrell Bank has tended to drop out of world news in the last few years.

That work has never amounted to more than a tenth of the total output of the telescope, and its main scientific roles are somewhat beyond the comprehension of laymen. Sir Bernard and his staff talk in terms of distance of billions of light years and refer to the Milky Way as "relatively local".

been charged at least once in the ordinary course of business. But many local authority trading standards officers who have to enforce the order regard this section as inoperable, as they are required to prove that the trader has never even agreed a sale price (not making one) at the higher price.

The new regulations also make illegal comparison with manufacturers' recommended retail prices for beds, domestic electrical appliances, consumer goods, carpets and furniture.

The Government accepted that consumers were being misled by comparisons in those sectors, but in spite of its ban, which came into force on December 10, manufacturers' recommended prices were still being quoted on Saturday in some electrical shops in Tottenham Court Road and Kingsland High Street, Hackney, both in London.

## On days when there is no postal delivery, overnight telegrams will be held for the next postal delivery.

For telegrams to the Irish Republic and the Isle of Man, please check with the telegram operator.

Post Office Telegrams



## WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

## Moscow accuses US of trying to be world gendarme

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Dec 23

The Russians, who constantly ridicule talk of any Soviet threat to the West, appear increasingly alarmed by what they see as an American threat in all parts of the world.

A Soviet military commentator today accused the Americans of "global hegemonism" in a phrase usually reserved for the Chinese, and said Washington was now trying to play the role of the world's gendarme.

He said the Americans considered not only the Western hemisphere as their exclusive territory, but also described West Europe and the Middle and Far East as "vitally important strategic zones".

Accusing the Americans of hegemonism is tantamount to equating their policies with those of the Chinese, which the Russians daily denounce with deep-seated loathing.

A commentary in the military newspaper *Red Star* said that before his election President Carter had promised to reduce arms sales and to prohibit military intervention in the internal affairs of other countries. But his years in office had proved this was "pure demagoguery".

The newspaper said: "Based on a new global policy of force, a readiness to undertake military intervention in various parts of the world has become ever more apparent. The United States yearning to play again the role of the world's gendarme is now quite transparent." *Red Star* attributed this new

policy of hegemonism to Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser, and said it epitomized the view of American ruling circles that the United States had the right to decide the fate of all mankind.

Two other Soviet papers today gave instances of what they saw as American interference in various parts of the world. *Pravda* said the Americans were working to overthrow the Government of Afghanistan, which is linked to Moscow by a treaty of friendship.

"The dream of sowing poisonous seeds of mistrust in the relations between the Soviet and Afghan peoples, of isolating the young Afghan republic from its real friends and of creating conditions for open interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs," *Pravda* said.

The paper said the anti-Afghan activities of the American and other espionage and sabotage services were a crude interference.

*Sovetskaya Industriya* accused the Americans of trying to transform the Association of South-East Asian Nations into a military-political block to replace the defunct South-East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO).

"Hardly a month passes without American officials paying a visit to the area to schmooze the Asian leaders. Their favourite topic is invariably the so-called 'Soviet menace' which, they allege, is aggravated by a military threat from socialist Vietnam."

## Soviet build-up in Kabul worrying Washington

From David Cross  
Washington, Dec 23

The United States has voiced its fears that a steady build-up of Russian troops in and near Afghanistan could transform the country from a buffer state between East and West into a fully-fledged Soviet satellite.

This in turn would pose long-term security threats to neighbouring countries such as Iran and Pakistan, the Administration here believes.

The Administration's views on the increased Soviet presence in the area were conveyed to reporters by a senior State Department official during an unusual weekend briefing. The briefing was arranged after a series of disclosures by State Department officials about the build-up during the past fortnight.

He said that in recent weeks Moscow had flown the equivalent of an airborne regiment totalling about 1,500 combat troops to an airbase near the Afghan capital of Kabul. The arrival of the paratroopers had brought the number of Soviet military personnel in the country to some 5,000 troops and advisers. In addition, another 30,000 troops had been moved up to the Soviet border with Afghanistan.

The introduction of Soviet combat units on this scale and the suppression of a wide-spread resistance movement is very naturally an issue of concern to us, the official said. Senior administration officials had complained three or four times to the Soviet authorities about the growing Soviet military role, he added.

## Big swing from Mr Kennedy to Mr Carter

New York, Dec 23.—President Carter, who trailed Senator Edward Kennedy in opinion polls until recently, now has a lead of between 33 and 53 per cent among Democrats and independent voters, a *Time* magazine survey has shown.

Calling the switch: "One of the most dramatic turnabouts in modern American political history," *Time* said there has been a shift of 63 percentage points in the President's favour in only four months.

Mr Carter's gains were attributed in part to his handling of the crisis in Iran, and in part to Senator Kennedy's handling of his campaign since he announced his candidacy.

Two-thirds of those polled said they thought Mr Carter's approach to the crisis was "just right". Three-quarters disapproved of Mr Kennedy's recent outspoken criticism of the deposed Shah.—*Reuter*.

## Pope castigates greed of oil suppliers

Rome, Dec 23.—The Pope has made an outspoken attack on the greed of certain international commodity suppliers, in an apparent reference to the world's oil exporters.

The untypical criticism came yesterday in the Pope's Christmas message to cardinals summarizing his first full year as pontiff. He also appealed for religious liberty in China and called for greater unity between Christians.

He made no specific reference to oil but Vatican observers interpreted his words as a criticism of the drastic rise in oil prices.

"I think the suffering paid by the anonymous mass of humble people in every country, caused by unexpected variations in international commodity prices, is a source of concern to all of us," he said.

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With the crises of the Rhodesian talks behind him, Lord Carrington finds peace relaxing on his Buckinghamshire farm.

## Mr Nkomo says Muzorewa gunmen staged shooting

Lusaka, Dec 23.—Mr Joshua Nkomo today accused Bishop Abel Muzorewa's men of attacking the former home in Salisbury of Mr Robert Mugabe, who with Mr Nkomo leads the Patriotic Front.

Three unidentified Africans shot at the Mugabe home with automatic guns yesterday, wounding two of Mr Mugabe's nephews.

In a speech after his return from signing the Rhodesia ceasefire agreement in London, Mr Nkomo said Bishop Muzorewa's men had staged the attack to make it look as if Mr Nkomo's gunmen were involved, and thus split the Patriotic Front alliance. He called on Lord Soames, the new British Governor, to stop further attacks by rounding up the auxiliary forces and putting them in special camps.

"Until that is done, incidents like yesterday's will continue to happen," he said.

A Zambian Government delegation of more than 2,000 of Mr Nkomo's followers gave him a rousing welcome. About 50,000 refugees and guerrilla fighters of Mr Nkomo's Zim-

babwe African Peoples' Union (Zapu) have used Zambia as a base during the Rhodesia bush war.

Speaking to his followers, Mr Nkomo paid tribute to "the heroic spirit of our people" against imperialism and exploitation. He also thanked international organizations and countries, particularly the socialist states of East Europe and Zambia, which had helped the Patriotic Front.

Connecting the war in Rhodesia with liberation struggles in other parts of Southern Africa, Mr Nkomo declared: "We fought together against the white man's rule in South Africa."

He later told journalists that he would return to Salisbury "in the very near future" but would first spend a few days in the Zambian capital to issue instructions to his forces about the ceasefire.

Asked about the Patriotic Front's plans for the Rhodesian elections, Mr Nkomo said: "We have fought the war as

an alliance, we shall fight the elections as an alliance."

He promised equal treatment for all in Rhodesia, regardless of colour: "Our war was not against white people. It was against an evil system. We shall not discriminate against white people who chose to stay in the country."

Asked what would happen to Bishop Muzorewa if he lost the election, Mr Nkomo said the Bishop could choose whether to leave the country.

"It is up to the police to decide who has committed crimes," he added, indicating the possibility of war crimes trials.

The Zapu leader also appealed to Britain to ensure that all South African troops left Rhodesia immediately.—*Reuter*.

Frederick Cleary, British Foreign Secretary, said yesterday as the first of the 1,300-strong Commonwealth force monitoring the ceasefire and the Rhodesian general election moves into action today.

If fired on, the Commonwealth forces are instructed to protect themselves and their comrades. They could be outnumbered 60 to 1 by guerrillas.

From midnight on December 23 the small teams of lightly armed monitors will be at the Patriotic Front rendezvous points and assembly areas. The monitors will have no truncheons and the large white flag designed for each collection point will be floodlit at night.

They will wait in their last-leased tents behind a desk for the first guerrillas to come in. Patriotic Front Base officers are to scan the bush near each designated area and use loud-speakers in an attempt to persuade guerrillas to come in, with their weapons, before the deadline of midnight on January 4.

Meanwhile the build-up of Commonwealth troops and supplies continues. The British air force has become a big attraction for Rhodesians of all races. They gazed in awe yesterday at the first of the giant Galaxy transports lent by the United States Air Force, taxed in. This, the second largest aircraft in the world, is bigger than a 747 Boeing jetliner.

Unauthorized meetings and demonstrations were held in black townships round the country over the weekend after

the Governor's lifting on Friday of the ban on the Zapu and Zanu parties of the Patriotic Front.

In Zengeza township, a few miles south of Salisbury, a crowd estimated at 20,000 ran several miles giving Black Power salutes, chanting and singing.

African sanctions: Tanzania today lifted economic sanctions against Rhodesia; the Foreign Ministry said in Dar-es-Salaam. The other "front-line states" supporting Patriotic Front guerrillas—Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and Angola—had not taken simultaneous action, it said.

President Samora Machel of Mozambique in announcing his country's ending of sanctions, disclosed that "hundreds" of Mozambican soldiers have been fighting in Rhodesia with the guerrillas.—*Reuter* and AP.

Russian protest: The Soviet Union has protested to the United Nations over the lifting by Britain and the United States of trade sanctions against Rhodesia. Only the Security Council could reverse its own decision, the Russians said.—*Reuter*.

## Shah's sister puts blame for deaths on Ayatollah

New York, Dec 23.—Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, twin sister of the deposed Shah of Iran, has accused Ayatollah Khomeini of executing more than 700 people "whose only crime was to have cooperated with the old regime."

She made her accusation in an open letter to the United Nations, in which she accused the Islamic revolutionaries of committing "the most heinous crimes of the century."

More output: Mr Abol Hassan Bani-Hosein, the Iranian Prime Minister, said today that Iran would fight American economic sanctions by increasing production and decreasing consumption. This could constitute "the greatest economic revolution in the history of the world."

Mr Bani-Hosein told reporters in Tehran that the Islamic republic would eliminate interest from the banking system—but not the entire economy—from March 21 next, the first day of the Iranian new year.

Sadat attack: President Sadat of Egypt said in an interview with French television that Ayatollah Khomeini was "a fanatic" and the seizure of the Sinai Peninsula was "scandalous".—*UPI*.

The princess said: "You know full well Mr Secretary General, that Iran under the Pahlavis was a peaceful and prosperous nation, internationally acclaimed as a model of success in the developing world."

How is it possible in the United Nations to forgive the terrorist crimes committed by Mr Khomeini... when the principles of the charter of the United Nations?—*AP*.

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Sadat attack: President Sadat of Egypt said in an interview with French television that Ayatollah Khomeini was "a fanatic" and the seizure of the Sinai Peninsula was "scandalous".—*UPI*.

## Ships damaged as storm lashes Naples

Naples, Dec 23.—Naples port authorities issued a new storm warning today as high seas and strong winds continued to buffet the Italian coast.

Extensive damage has been caused in the past two days in the Naples area. Nine ships are reported grounded and around the port, and six small coasters have suffered severe damage.

In Venice, the highest waters since the disastrous flooding of 1966 hit the city yesterday, causing damage estimated at several million pounds.—*Reuter*.

## Stations sacked as train is late

Macerata, Italy, Dec 23.—About 300 out of 1,000 Italian emigrant workers returning from West Germany for the holiday season today were stranded after their train was five hours late.

They abused their employers and overturned benches and the train on the tracks at the Porto Recanati station in Macerata province. Several hours later they sacked the Roseto station in Abruzzo province.

## Vatican rules consecration of Peking bishop illegal

Rome, Dec 23.—The consecration of a new bishop by the Catholic Church of Peking without the consent of the Holy See was illegal and hurt the Pope "very deeply" according to a Vatican spokesman.

The spokesman, the Rev. Romeo Panfili, also said yesterday that the Vatican had received many telegrams and letters from Roman Catholic bishops and the faithful throughout the world who disapproved of the elevation of Mr. Michael Fu Tieshan as bishop.

China's Catholic Church has been estranged from the Vatican since the 1949 Communist revolution and is known as the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association. The new bishop was elected by a vote of the asso-

ciation members in Peking last summer.

Father Panfili said: "The doctrine of the Church, and canon discipline do not consider legitimate, in any case, the nomination which comes about without the 'consensus' or approval of the Holy See. A consecration of this kind can only hurt the Pope very deeply."

"Unjust" attitude: In Peking Mr. Fu Tieshan said the attitude of the Vatican towards an independent Chinese Church was "unjust" and called for autonomous churches for each world region.

He told foreign reporters that he hoped the Vatican would adopt a more realistic attitude towards his church's nationalist version of Catholicism.—*UPI* and *Agence France Presse*.

## Israel fears momentum has been lost

Tel Aviv, Dec 23.—The session that Egyptian officials had not attended last week but he acknowledged that some of his colleagues had the impression that they had.

The session was held in Cairo by Dr Bouris Ghali, Egypt's acting Foreign Minister, and the Egyptian Ambassador to Tel Aviv were viewed by some Israelis as a reflection of the attitude of the Egyptian government towards the peace treaty.

Officials in Jerusalem concluded privately that Egypt could fulfil its commitments in the peace treaty by introducing

only modest trade relations and customs exchanges.

Campus battle: Bir Zeit, a Palestinian university, sent 1,400 students home for Christmas today, a day earlier, as passings to cool after a can battle yesterday between Israeli soldiers and students.

The clash was the second three days. The Military Government said 13 students were injured, a day earlier, was a sign by the Government of two months last spring a similar disturbance.

The Military Government acknowledged today that there had been a clash in the camp while pursuing 200 students had blocked the road through the town and thrown stones at soldiers.

## Armenian avengers' killed Turkish official in Paris

Paris, Dec 23.—

The Turkish diplomat shot dead yesterday morning on the Champs Elysees in front of the famous "Bouquet" restaurant, was the victim of a self-styled "commando of Armenian avengers against genocide," and of the "new Armenian resistance."

Soon after the murder of Mr Yilmaz Colpan, aged 31, press counsellor of the Turkish Embassy and director of the Turkish Tourist Office in Paris, a man saying he spoke for the group telephoned *Agence France-Presse* and declared in English: "We assume responsibility for the attack against the Turkish Embassy."

His organization, he added, was responsible for other attacks in Rome, Madrid, and Amsterdam.

"Our aim in killing Turkish political leaders in Europe is to obtain for Armenians those rights the Turkish Government refuses to grant them. We are not Communists and our group is opposed to all organizations which misuse the Armenian cause as an instrument of communist policy."

Mr Colpan had left his office on the Champs Elysees to buy newspapers at a kiosk near "Fouquet's," when a man aged between 25 and 30, with angular features and wearing grey trousers and a dark coat, came up to him.

According to the few witnesses about the cold morning, he fired three shots point blank at the victim, and escaped down a side street. The Turkish diplomat collapsed on the pavement and died instantly.

Last July, the same "commando of avengers" claimed responsibility for a bomb attack against the offices of three Turkish organizations in Paris, in which one person was injured.

Last month, they directed their attacks against the premises of Turkish Airlines. Similar attacks have taken place in Rome and Madrid.

The Armenian nationalists demand reparations for the genocide perpetrated against their kinsfolk when in 1915 the Turkish government ordered the deportation of a million Armenians to Syria or Mesopotamia, and a large number of them were massacred in the process.

The Armenians demand continuation of the genocide by the United Nations and restoration to the Armenians of their territories now occupied by the Turks.

Office bomb: An explosion at 5 am in what is usually one of the busiest shopping streets in Amsterdam, caused extensive damage to the Turkish Airlines offices yesterday. (Robert Schiedt, writer from Amsterdam). No one was injured.

## 'Fat One' answers prayers with £40m

From Harry Debetius  
Madrid, Dec 23

Spain's famed 'Fat One', Gordo, rounded out its 14th birthday this weekend involving £40m on the proceeds of a church whose profits sold lottery tickets to raise money to repair a leaky roof.

The Fat One is Spain's coldest Christmas lottery, bigger than ever this century yet which showered £200m in te of thousands of cash prizes over Spain last Saturday, with prizes ranging from a few hundred pounds back up to £10,000 or more.

It was a story-book draw in year with results as hoped as the same distributed. T. Campesano, on the outskirts Catholic Church of Our La of Fatima in the town of Gualand, on the outskirts Barcelona, were the big beneficiaries.

Most of them are factory workers from the poorest part of Spain. They had bought Christmas lottery shares in their pastor, Father Samper for the equivalent of 65p each on the understanding that the money would go towards the roof for the repair of the church and the rest represented their part of ticket money. £40,226, back by the parish administration.

Never before had £1 Gordo been so eager to pop out the huge wire cage in the storeroom of the National Lottery Administration in Madrid.

Hardly had the boys of Gualand's School begun drawing the numbered wooden balls when one of the balls fell with prize money painted on them from other cages, before £1 Gordo appeared. Juan Carlos Peñalosa, aged 13, the school boy who was charged with the job to "pull the Gordo" chanted, felt his voice skip high when he began to sing it.

All together, the Fat One scattered nearly £50m. Granollers, a town with a population of 15,000, and the majority of that went to parishioners of the parish of Fatima Church, who for a 65p got £55.17. With the shares he kept for him Father Samper won more than £55,000.

"We're going to open a nursery, of that you can be sure," the priest said, smiling. "In business, I closed the one we had," was referring to a hall owned by the town and used by parish as a day nursery. The town council recently claimed the building for its use.

One of the largest individual winners, a 65-year-old Granollers, who bought a whole block of the parish-sponsored lottery shares. He won nearly £275,000.

The capricious El Gordo seemed determined this time to be extravagant with prizes to bring on modest prizes.

Señorita Sant Martinez, young shop assistant, quit job in Granollers last summer when she won about £69,000 the regular weekly state lottery. El Gordo gave another prize, worth twice much as the previous one.

Spain's lottery is a state monopoly, but the Government has allowed private companies to operate it in some regions.

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## Barre Government survives its tenth motion of censure

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Dec 23

A government able to survive 10 motions of censure in one parliamentary session would seem to have a solid parliamentary majority.

The government of M Raymond Barre, which yesterday sailed through the last two motions of the Opposition tabled with the same apparent ease as the previous eight, is in no danger of being overturned.

But its majority is a negative, rather than a positive one. The Gaullists, once again, have refused to support the social security system, just as they did for the 1980 budget. But they have stopped short once more of bringing the government down, and did not join their votes to those of the Socialists and Communists.

"The Government majority exists. It is not present not because it has decided not to vote censure," M Barre de-

clared, pointing to the empty benches of his supporters in the National Assembly.

"Because I know that this majority remains fundamentally united on its choice of society, I shall do nothing to divide it, or to divide one of the parties of that majority," he added, alluding to the Gaullists.

For the umpteenth time, he defended his Government's repeated use of Article 49 of the constitution, every time it considered that an important Bill must be approved. Under Article 49, a Bill is considered adopted without a vote unless it is rejected by a motion of censure.

"The feigned or genuine alarm of those who criticize it leaves me both serene and determined," he said. He recalled that prime ministers of the Fourth Republic, in whose 13 years of existence governments fell like ninepins, had longed for such a weapon, "to thwart" fortuitous majorities

capable of wrecking, but incapable of constructing."

M Joseph Franceschi, a Socialist spokesman, claimed that the use of Article 49 demonstrated that the Government had no majority. "That you do not draw the consequences of this is your affair," but that you institutionalize your policy by default concerns the country because it involves democracy."

A Communist spokesman pitching the stakes just a little higher, accused the Government of "flouting democracy and insulting the voters."

This drew from M Barre the stinging retort that "M Franceschi (the prototype of bourgeois and reactionary bourgeoisie) has won the elections which you lost."

The fact remains that President Giscard d'Estaing is concerned about the parliamentary situation and the discredit which repeated resort to purely symbolic motions of

censure and to the adoption of government Bills without a vote, cannot fail to bring upon a parliamentary institution never highly thought of by ordinary Frenchmen.

Mr Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the President of the National Assembly, warned the Government in his end-of-session address last week that "the Assembly admits it is no longer omnipotent. But it would not be content to become a mere rubber stamp."

A day later, M Alain Poirer, the President of the Senate, insisted, while avoiding judgment on the use of Article 49, that "it is essential to restore the dignity of Parliament, by not compelling it to adopt votes it carried out in its wisdom after 15 days of long and painful debate (reference to the abortion Bill)."

The hope at the Elysee Palace is that three months of parliamentary recess, which began with 49 hours' delay because of the last censure vote,

will inspire the Gaullists to greater wisdom and a better usage of the institution for which they were originally responsible.

The refusal to vote the budget, or the reform of the social security system, afflicted by a huge deficit, without at the same time accepting the logical consequences of that refusal by censuring the Government, is in its view a breach of the majority pact upon which the stability of the Fifth Republic rests.

The Gaullists themselves realize that their tactics, which consist in respecting the voters' choice of 1973, while dissociating themselves from the policies of the Government, are not understood or appreciated by public opinion.

There are indications that next year, they will modify them, until such time as, they hope, events will have proved them right against M Barre or his successor.



## OVERSEAS

## Army fights crime in Chinese provinces

Peking, Dec. 23.—Chinese authorities have called on the Army to impose law and order in nine provinces and more executions, including that of the leader of an arms and drugs ring, have been carried out to try to control crime.

Local radio and other sources spoke today of "a very serious situation" in some towns, with "feudal armed gangs" and "criminals" who were warned not to cover up for the crimes of their children helping them to escape justice.

Provincial radio also said that a division of the Peking garrison is helping police to fight crime in the capital.

The nine provinces where the army had to intervene to help the police are Anhui, Henan, Shaanxi, Hebei, Fujian, Guangxi, Guangdong, Jilin and Xinjiang, ranging from the north-east to the extreme west, and from the south to the centre of the country.

In Shaanxi, especially at Yan'an, where the Communists settled after the long march of the 1930s—the railways were reported to be unsafe and armed bands had attacked police, while at Urumqi, in the west, troops were patrolling public places.

In Guangdong the frontier province bordering on Hong Kong, the deputy head of the local administration criticized those who were behind gang warfare as well as "feudal superstition" in the country side, gambling, and the destruction of forests and called for a halt to "the sinister wind of illegal emigration".

The local radio at Kunming in the south-west said today that four people, including the leader of a smuggling gang, had been shot on December 10 after a trial and a mass meeting to judge 23 common criminals.

The sentences were preceded by a strong reminder from General Yang Dezhi, commander of the Kunming military region, to Army officers, "particularly high ranking ones", that they were forbidden to protect their children involved in criminal matters.

The appeal, made at the mass meeting of 5,000 people, was similar to one made in Anhui to Communist Party officials, and suggested to observers that at least some of the offenders were from influential families.

Other incidents, including "unbridled criminal activities" in Shandong province, according to the Governor, and "rather a lot of crimes" in Guizhou, according to the local newspaper, indicated to observers a sudden worsening of order in the provinces.

The authorities said today, without giving details, that the Supreme Court had put into effect a series of "regulations" for revising the death penalty, which has been widely used recently. Kunming radio reported exhortations to dissidents who have "pursued capitalist liberty" to fall into line.—Agence France-Presse and Reuters.

## Further reduction

Delhi, Dec. 23.—Indian civil servants who volunteer for sterilisation will pay half a per cent less interest on their home mortgages under a new government plan.

## Alan Paton asks if pledges on apartheid were kept

Johannesburg, Dec. 23.—Official promises of significant change in apartheid-ruled South Africa had turned out to be "extraordinary promises" which Alan Paton, the writer, said this weekend in an end-of-year message.

Mr. Paton, who is best-known for his novel *The Beloved Country*, said South Africa was facing a "dangerous and difficult decade in the 1980s, but African-speaking whites, who dominate politics, were awakening to change."

He said the Portuguese coup of 1974 that brought independence and black rule to Mozambique and Angola had mixed two unimpeachable messages to this country... to Black South Africa the message was that the age of freedom had begun. The message to white South Africa was that the age of domination was over.

Mr. Paton suggested that the response of the ruling National Party had been inadequate. "Two extraordinary non-events" had followed—a promise to the Foreign Minister that racial discrimination would end, and a statement from Mr. Vorster, the former Prime Minister, that the world was going to get a big surprise within six months.

"What became of these two promises?" Mr. Paton asked. London visit: Mr. P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, is hoping to take a step towards ending his country's international isolation by paying an official visit to London early in the new year (Ray Kennedy writes from Johannesburg).

He wants to take Mrs. Margaret Thatcher at her word. She said in New York last week that the end of the apartheid era combined with the changes in South Africa's domestic policies, offered a chance to make progress towards ending the isolation of South Africa.

Mr. P. W. Botha, the Foreign Minister, has described Mrs. Thatcher's remarks as encouraging and is believed to have brought up the subject of a meeting between the two leaders during recent talks in London with Lord Carrington.

If Mr. Botha does go to London he will be the first South African Prime Minister to do so since Dr. Hendrik Verwoerd led South Africa out of the Commonwealth in 1961.

Santa/Satan: Father Christmas is an evil influence and should be banished, according to a minister of South Africa's Dutch Reformed Church. The Rev. Jan Viljoen has called on his parishioners in Port Elizabeth to shun the Father Christmas or Santa Claus concept.

Reuters.

## Kampuchea aid workers await border flare-up

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, Dec. 23

Aid volunteers working among Kampuchean refugees along the Thai border are digging bunkers for their own protection in case Thai military forces across the border materialize. Thailand's armed forces in the region have been placed on full alert for the first time since mid-October.

A plan for the volunteers' evacuation in an emergency is also ready. Some 140,000 Kampuchean refugees near the border would not be part of the evacuation.

Thai military spokesmen say intelligence reports indicate the possibility of large-scale Vietnamese attacks on or close to

## Indian politicians expect repeat of 'booth capturing' by armed gangs and violence in Bihar poll

From Richard Wigg, Patna, Dec. 23

The two wings of the split Janata party are waging a "no holds barred" general election campaign in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to retain something of the 1977 triumph when together they swept up all the 139 seats, more than a quarter of the Lok Sabha, the Lower House.

While the organization of the right-wing Hindu nationalist Jana Sangh is behind the rump Janata party, the Lok Dal party of Mr. Charan Singh the caretaker Prime Minister, looks highly vulnerable. The clear winner of the split vote ought to be Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister.

The Janata "wave" in 1977 was accompanied by serious election violence, particularly in Bihar where it is notorious, though politely ignored by Delhi. With Janata split, electoral malpractices constitute a challenge which India's Election Commission is ill equipped to face.

The returning officers, all district magistrates, in 52 of Bihar's 54 parliamentary constituencies this weekend told the state Election Commission they fear "some sort of trouble" on polling day. Mr. S. N. Mishra, the Minister of External Affairs, has even felt obliged to ask the commission for "special personal protection" in his Bihar constituency.

By contrast, in the Uttar Pradesh constituency of Mr. Charan Singh, the Janata party has demanded special precautions of the Election Commission, alleging that Mr. Charan Singh's farmers' caste which dominates the region, will simply not allow any Harijan (formerly untouchables) voters to get to the polls.

In 1977 there were 40 officially registered cases of election "booth captures", that is the physical taking over of polling stations by armed gangs who, after throwing out the presiding officer and offi-

cials and any genuine voters, proceed to stamp the ballot papers and vote for the candidate who hired them.

The Janata Government, which took power in the state in the local elections which followed, has not punished anyone involved in those 40 admitted cases. Indeed, it is estimated that about a quarter of the state Assembly members had themselves been charged with law-and-order offences before their election gave them immunity.

Such facts in the home state of Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the Janata leader, make his claim in his political broadcast last night from Delhi that Janata has "restored the democratic freedoms" after Mrs. Gandhi's emergency, sound hollow.

The link between organized criminal gangs in Bihar and the politicians is at the root of Bihar's backwardness, the gangs are patronized by all parties. Seeking refuge from time to time in neighbouring Nepal from their normal smuggling activities, which have grown since total prohibition was introduced in the state last year, the gangs emerge before polling day to "contract" for booth capturing for any politician who needs to "take out" say 25 booths.

For 10,000 rupees (just over £500) the gang leader will assemble an armed gang for polling day. Sometimes capturing is not necessary, a body of 200 impersonators, often including many women, will descend on a polling station and vote. The polling officers, all minor local officials, fear reprisals if they resist the ruling politician's will.

But this year, a public drama preceded the polling. The Janata Government, headed by a Harijan protégé of Mr. Ram, has just dismissed the Chief Secretary, the top civil servant in the state, who was alleged to be a southerner, after he refused to permit the transfer of a

some in what appears to be a demonstration by the Council of its strength.

The most controversial change made by President Bhisai was to move Mr. Yoweri Museveni, a young left-wing politician, from the post of Defence Minister to the less sensitive post of Minister of Regional Co-operation. The Council has approved the change — and has agreed that President Bhisai himself should hold the Defence Portfolio — while Mr. Museveni has apparently withdrawn his earlier refusal to accept the new post.

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## Former Amin soldiers freed from Ugandan prison

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Dec. 23

The Ugandan Government released a thousand detainees — most of them members of the Ugandan Army under former President Idi Amin — from Luzira Prison near Kampala this weekend. They had been held without charge since the Amin overthrow in April.

There are still about 3,000 prisoners held without charge, mainly former members of the Amin intelligence and security services. The releases at the weekend have reduced crowding in Luzira Prison, which was designed to hold about 1,800 prisoners, but it is still too full.

The Ugandan Government appears to have accepted that it cannot bring charges against the former soldiers, but they have been warned not to create trouble, and not to try to join former Amin troops now in the Sudan and Zaire.

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## E Germans take goods from Polish shoppers

From Gretel Spitzer, Berlin, Dec. 23

East Germany took drastic steps to stop Poles from shopping in their country. The newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* reported today that in early December a train to Poland was halted in East Germany, surrounded by police with dogs and searched. Most of the goods stolen from the train had been bought in East Berlin were confiscated without any refund.

The newspaper related another incident a few days later when the passengers of a Polish bus met with similar treatment.

After the liberalisation of traffic between Poland and East Germany the shopping spree of Poles led to tension. Both governments took steps to prevent extensive purchases.

On arrival in East Germany the Poles are given a list of goods they should not buy. These include shoes, stockings, socks, children's underwear and clothes, sheets, towels, bed linen, wallpaper, precious metals and stones, sugar and onions.

Two extraordinary veterans of the entertainment industry who could hardly be more different from one another are among the principal draws in this season's revival of *Top of the Pops* at the Old Vic theatre in London. The first is Bobby Thompson who is a mere 70 and is doing a 13-minute solo comic turn in the middle of the pantomime *Cinderella*, a lavish new production at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle upon Tyne. I went to watch both shows in the final stages of rehearsal.

Richard Gooden long since made a national reputation of himself as Mr. Mole, a role he first played in 1930 in the initial London production (it first opened in Liverpool in 1929), though he still pursues a busy acting career elsewhere the rest of the year.

Bobby Thompson, by contrast, is a cult figure and a folk hero in that nation within a nation, the North-East of England, where he is known to all as "the little fiddler" (Gooden for wassail), in honour of the ingenious, bawdy, wistly idler he portrays in his act, which he mostly performs in the clubs of his native region. He was presented with a golden disc only this month to mark the enormous sales of his first comic record. Considering that rather less than 10 per cent of the British population can even understand his carefully cultivated broad Geordie, this represents an astounding commercial feat.

The diminutive former miner, who took to the boards at the age of 20 when his pit was closed, talks a lot about money on and off the stage. He is getting £2,500 a week for his pantomime spot. Linked to the "pit" (if that is not too strong a word in this context) by the slender of slender threads, he is simply introduced by the curtain turn at Prince Charming's ball and left to get on with his act dressed in the usual cap and muffer which have become his trademarks.

We sat in the empty stalls and talked which a technical rehearsal was going on on the stage. "Why are you here to pull in the grown-ups?" he said. He told me a complicated joke about a boiled egg which space, dialect and various other considerations preclude me from repeating here, though it was extremely funny. I was unfortunately unable to understand him because I took a degree in Geordie at the university of life many years ago.

Thompson caused consternation in the orchestra pit when the time came later that day for him to rehearse the cues introducing and closing his part in the show. He asked the musical director, Mr. Peter Day, to play "the Blaydon Races" — the Geordies' national anthem, as his introduction. Unfortunately nobody had told Mr. Day that this was wanted, as he soon pungently made clear, but the musicians, like the good Tynesiders many

of them are, produced a perfect version from memory.

The secret of Thompson's success, apart from wit and sheer professionalism, lies in the way he captures the unbreakable spirit of defiance of the little man who has seen it all — slump, depression, war, industrial decline and unemployment — and suffered a lot, but somehow remains his sense of humour.

Gooden too works hard and is a professional through and through, but he is a completely different, and rather easier, man in life, making four decade years to complete what he described as "a short course in French literature" at Oxford before joining the Oxford Playhouse.

When I spoke to him, he was wearing a voluminous brown overcoat, red muffer, brown sports jacket with a luminous green handkerchief flopping from the top pocket, purple shirt, greenish corduroy trousers, brown bow tie, brown fur hat, heavy black boots and was carrying an ancient, silver-topped Portuguese cane. Not a man to miss in a crowd, even if he is rather small in stature. We were in the venerable rehearsal hall at the top of the Old Vic building, which looks like nothing so much as an abandoned Territorial Army drill hall, if a little less luxurious.

To put it bluntly, the mole of moles in this year of moles is not a man who changes any of his habits lightly. He can't remember how often he has played this part, but it must be in the higher forties. He has lived in the same house in Chelsea, London, for 55 years (for the preceding 29 he lived in one house in Paddington) and he takes his holidays in the same village in Picardy, which he got to know during the First World War, year after year.

If he has the choice, he told me, he will die in harness (if he ever dies). "I don't have any plans to retire," he said. "I have always lived alone except for my housekeeper, who died recently. I do all the repairs at home. No. I've never married, and I think it might be a bit late now."

Although it is brand new, the Newcastle "Cinderella" has an interesting history. It is supposed to be the first time that a subsidized theatre company, the Tynewear from Sunderland, and a "commercial" theatre, the Royal (which is in fact owned by Newcastle City Council who also cover its annual deficit), have come together to put on a pantomime from scratch.

The Tynewear built the sets and made the costumes and the Royal assembled the cast. Two directors, both called John to make confusion worse confounded, one from each company, worked in harness on the show, which did not seem to suffer as a result.

The Royal's general manager, Mr. Michael Grayson, said it had cost about £150,000 to put the show on, money he hoped would be recouped by selling it as a going concern to other theatres for Christmas seasons to come. Many pantomimes are put on for 20 years in succession or even longer. "And they look it," said Mr. Grayson. "Some of them are so

## The mole of moles doesn't change his habits



Photographs by Harry Kane



Top: Bobby Thompson (left) and David Jason. Above: Richard Gooden during rehearsals.

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cheap and nasty that they swindle the public. I would hope our show will last for six or eight years."

The show has a new book and new music but conforms to the classic pantomime pattern. *Cinderella*, of course, doubles up on the transvestism which is a feature of all pantomimes: not only the Prince but also his squerney, Dandini, are females dressed as males, and there are two "dames" in the shapes, buttressed by "Brisols" as they are known in the trade, of the Ugly Sisters, who are of course male.

David Jason, an accomplished and experienced light actor on stage, television and radio, finds himself in the lead in the first pantomime he has ever played in. "I'm terrified," he said (and his nerves often showed when things went wrong in rehearsal, even when the plot intended them to go). He plays Buttons, while Leah Bell, a tiny singer with a powerful voice and of local origin, plays *Cinderella*.

It is such a luxury appearing in a new show, which costumes made for me from new. I usually find I have to fasten the skirts under my armpits because the one thing they won't let you do with costumes is cut them. You can only pin them up. I feel sorry for whoever takes over from me in future years.

It was a curious experience to sit in the stalls watching a talented cast at work playing for laughs they did not know they would get until the first night. A few temporarily idle actors, technicians and others did their best to supply the shouts of "behind you!" and "Oh no he hasn't!" expected of the children once the show starts. It's a bit bloody difficult," said Jason, "cracking a joke and trying to get the timing right when there are only four people in the auditorium who have heard it 60 times before and can only come out with a 'Ha, ha'."

The cast of the Old Vic have few such problems. Apart from Gooden, several other principal players have been in it several times before. Ian Talbot, for example, is starring his seventh season as Mr. Toad when the show opens tonight. "I never dreamed I would be playing this part at the Old Vic," he said. "Every actor wants to appear here and I certainly don't mind that it is 'Toad' that has given me the change for the first time. It is a marvelous show."

At a rather earlier stage in rehearsal, and even though it was the first run-through in the theatre auditorium itself, the Old Vic cast were rather further into their stride than the Newcastle company two days before opening on December 16 when I saw them. "Toad" has the inestimable advantages of being well-versed and of a script by A. A. Milne. It looked so fresh 50 years on as "Cinderella" Geordie style, looked first time round.

For all the work of the hundreds involved in preparing these two disasters, shows, for me this Christmas season will always remain the year of the two "and old men of the entertainment business without whom neither show would have been quite what it turned out to be."

Den van der Vat



## Cricket

From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent  
Brisbane, Dec 23

Had Brearley won the toss he was thinking of putting West Indies in. The only time during the day when the bowlers had any help from the pitch was in

Of the first three balls bowled to Richards, by Gooch, two were leg-stump half volleys, which he dispatched eagerly for four. When he was 13 Richards was caught at mid-on off a no-ball and then in the same over missed at the wicket a difficult diving chance off an attempted hook. There was no holding him after that Haynes.

**Boycott twice blest: Greenidge drops him off Roberts while Lloyd (left) claws thin air.**

With six pots out of four matches (three wins out of four) Australia has a very good chance of being placed in this one-day competition, but at any rate in theory. In practice, however, the Aussies are not expected to do as well as Australia bow at least as well as England. England's next match is on Boxing Day, against Australia, and it is expected that the Aussies will be disappointed and impassioned crowd, Australia's victory over West Indies last Friday has revived what was a very low morale in England.

England will spend Christmas Day in Sydney, for the first time since 1853, and then they will return to Australia on Monday via ship. Nothing may be one of the reasons why even seeing England beaten into transports of delight.

[illegible]

**By Michael Phillips**

Frankson is one of only two jailers who have ever won on the Border Incident, said Wally Wetherby, a police officer who has been with the jail since 1954. The man who is the other might be released from his commitments to Wetherby to police the rioting. "It's a hell of a crowd," the irony of the situation is that Reed and Barry came to an agreement to stop the rioting after the incident. If Frankson was an unsavory job so long as he got paid, he would not be a bad job to become dead, that Fred Winter would not want Frankson's job and that he would be free to go home. "I don't know," said Barry, promptly released from that agreement and immediately booled a second time to the Wexley for Gordon Richards.

"Now everything depends on what the Klansmen do," said Wetherby. "If they don't start on the morning post, it is all right. If they do, we have had Reed described the situation to me last night. What was the situation? Reed was in the incident himself in in fine fettle and poised in the opinion of his

Buck is easy to detect and with good reason. He enters and exits the scene with such grace and confidence that you will think him is the weather changer and rainmaker, the going radically. He is, of course, but he is also the one who is Silver Buck's stable companion; Gay Spurnan, and I know that Silver Buck is the better. It is the case he ought to be capable of beating the Irish Challenge, but he is not.

Last week Buck of Tromps last five lengths by Gay Spurnan and on that occasion he was compelled to his own downfall by a sudden change in the weather when the race was on the second circuit. Recently Buck of Tromps carried an eagle as a trophy for a second time. The Tromps by a dozen lengths at Punchestown, but I am led to believe that they Buck of Tromps was never off the air. It is only when he is led down that he tends to jump to his feet.

[illegible]

**By Rex Bellamy**

States champions. In spite of their relatively advanced ages they remain the most instructive if no longer the most effective exponents of the special craft of doubles. McMillan's scheduled partner, Ilie Nastase, will now play with Christopher Mottram. These two intended to play together at Wimbledon, but were prevented from doing so when Mottram had to withdraw.

The most important point of Dent's triumph will be his increase in world ranking status on the international circuit. Earlier this year he was ranked 180 and at one time had to qualify for events. But now he has risen to below 50. Only two years ago he was ranked number 17 in the world, but a series of ankle injuries drained him of confidence and form and

[illegible][illegible]

## By Keith Mackli

Salford took a four-point lead with two penalty goals from their reliable full back Rule, but David Redfeard scored a try for Northern with Mumby adding the goal. Salford produced their best football shortly before the interval and their captain, Keith Fielding, scored a try converted by Rule to give Salford an interval

Wigan received plenty of ball from the scrummage but missed

**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP. North:**  
 Centuria 1. Yorkshire 3.  
 Club Results: Ashford 3. Old Hol-  
 combers 0. Barclays Bank 0. Nat  
 Westminster Bank 3. Bedford 0. Bed-  
 fordshire Ladies 0. Bromham 1.  
 Blueharts 0. Chalton 2. Peter 2.  
 Richings Park 2. Crawley 0. Lewes  
 1. Gosdun 0. Medstead Pottery 0.  
 Barchin 3. Havant 1. Hare, Middle-  
 sex 3. Rushmore 2. Merton 3.  
 Mid-Surrey 3. Pirelli 0. West Ham

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent

Saracens gave themselves a festive fillip by completing an early season double against their old London rivals, the Wasps, at Southgate on Saturday and in the process notched up their sixth win in seven games. This largely

Tiddy got the second try himself, seizing on a loose ball after Yarrow had knocked on a shrewdly placed kick from Drever.

**By Richard Streeton**  
The Barbarians' match with Leicester at Welford Road on Thursday provides the highlight of the Christmas programme in England and continues to grow in popularity. Coach parties from places as far apart as Lancashire and Kent are attending. All 9,500 stand tickets have now gone.

Christmas cheer was in short supply at the Old Deer Park on Saturday. Off the field, the London Welsh were their usual hospitable selves but in losing to Leicester by two penalty goals and two dropped goals (12 points) against two penalty goals (six), both sides could not together enjoy

It was not a day for good ball play, with a greasy ball and greasy playing surface. Nevertheless, Cusworth showed what could be achieved with a couple of firing runs. The Welsh backs, unexpectedly, played an incoherent sort of game with Clive. Usually the recipient of both b and Dodge, who seemed deo

The most exciting game of the day was at Bellevue, Wakefield, where Trinity, having shot into a 14-0 lead within 20 minutes, were overhauled at 14-14 by a spirited Hull KR counter-attack, and then won the game in the last minute. Floorball #21. Smith and Jullif

## Rugby League

**FIRST DIVISION: Saturday: Leeds 34, York 0; Wigan 19, Bradford 14; Wakefield 21, Hull KR 14; Warrington 18, Hunslet 6.**

**Second division**

**S W D L F A Pts**

## Lacrosse

**NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE:**  
 First Division: Bordenham & Eccles 6.  
 Stockport 18. Halcroft 22.  
 Second 20: Old Stofordians 15. Old  
 Huilmeians 7. Mather 16. Sharnell  
 University 10. Timperley 17. Old Wa-  
 conians 8. Urnston 3. South Man-  
 chester & Wynechshawe 20.

short side galloped with Yarrow, a swift and graceful wing. A sizeable thrust through the middle would have resulted in a wy if there had not been a little knock-out, pardonable in the conditions, by Bell, now stationed at centre with the replacement, Cole, out-weighed him. Taylor, all but gave away two tries, once with an in-

these two clubs last had a man playing in the same England side, as Cliff McGregor and Roger Urrley have been chosen for the senior side at Twickenham. Richard Sharp (Wasps) and Vic Harding (Saracens) in 1962 seemed a likely answer, but Harding, a Sale lock, had not moved south at that time.

house at holiday time these days, or is that a modern wife has put her foot down? London Welsh travel home to meet Llanelli on Wednesday and Swansea on Thursday but otherwise only London Irish and Saracens of the metropolitan clubs have fixtures.

Both sides were obviously puzzled at some of the referee's decisions, which may have led to a degree of feeling, and Leicester's captain, Wheeler, received a lecture from Mr Little in the first

not even as a seasonal gift.

LONDON WELSH: A. Clements;  
Rees, J. Williams, N. Rees, C. R.  
M. Tilly, I. George, W. Davey,  
J. E. Bradley, P. Ellis, M. Roberts  
Swearing (captain), S. Page,  
S. Jones

LEICESTER: W. Hare; J. Duggan  
Dodge, C. Woodward, J. Hurw  
Cusworth, M. Merriman; R. Co  
W. B. Fisher (captain); S. Redfe  
Gillman, J. Briggs, S. Jo  
R. G. Allen, Smith  
Hodgson, J. Little (London).

The most exciting one-sided performance came from St Helens who rattled up 51 points without reply against Workington Town. The Cumbrians contributed to their own slaughter with poor defence, but St Helens, who are rapidly ascending the table, played brilliant attacking football. Their outstanding player was the Welsh

Team	F	W	D	L	Pts
Colchester R	13	12	0	2	421
Oldham	13	9	0	2	350
Hullak	12	9	1	199	88
Ratow	14	8	1	5	256
Dewsbury	14	7	1	6	202
Bramley	14	7	1	6	181
Kelgichy	13	5	0	5	180
Rochdale	13	5	0	5	140
Widnesfield	14	0	0	8	180
Exley	14	5	2	7	127
Whitburn	13	5	1	7	163
Swinton	14	4	1	9	107
Hurton	13	3	0	10	86
Doncaster	14	0	0	14	86

**Fakenham**

12.45: 1. W-Quay (10-1); 2. Down-  
ing Arms (6-3 fav); 3. Matzuba  
(10-1) 10 ran.  
1.15: 1. Valmirey (7-4 fav); 2.  
Muster (8-2); 3. Sarah (12-1).  
1.45: 1. ... (10-1); 2. ... (10-1); 3. ... (10-1).

## Coventry gratifies Tories and Dav

## etel for Knee es finesse

Melvin, at prop, had a good match and Hall's ambitious running atoned in part for one or two covering lapses. Kane scored two good tries, both midway through the half. Davies initiated

Rugby Union results			
Exch	15	Physioth. Ab	12
Greenhead Park 3	1	Oversea	30
Blackburn	3	Proton C.	12
Caldy	0	S. Wales	16
Chester	0	Osley	11
Cardiff	38	Aberavon	5
Davenport	5	Doncaster	5
C. Wales	7	Edinburgh	5
Malpas	7	Northampton	16
Harlequins	22	Richmond	10
Harrogate	7	Worcester	7

at College Grove on Saturday. Friendly rivalry and a mutual anxiety to improve their positions in the Northern merit table produced maximum effort and both teams embellished the basic skills with many a touch of artistry. Before Wakefield came out on top by a goal and two penalty goals (12-6) to a goal (6). Handling moves covered the length of the field and accurate touch-kicks suited the

Had luck been with the Headley might have won. The team, much changed from the selected, was further disrupted by injuries which caused it to disband. Howard and Smith leave the field — the last on a stretcher. Their determination made serious mistakes.

	Depth (cm)		Conditions			Weather (5 pm)		°C
	L	U	Piste	plase resort	Runs to			
Anseré	80	120	Good	Varied	Good	Fair	—	
Excellent snow on all runs								
Courmayeur	70	350	Good	Fair	Closed	Snow	—	
New snow on good base								
Crans-Montana	80	140	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	0	
New snow on good base								
Flaine	60	260	Good	Fair	Good	Fair	—	
Good skiing conditions								
Grindavall	30	100	Good	Heavy	Fair	Fog	-1	
Icy patches on lower slopes								
La Plagne	150	300	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	-6	
Good powder on firm base								
Mürren	90	150	Good	Heavy	Good	Fog	-1	
Excellent skiing on upper slopes								
Seefeld	50	140	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	0	
Good snow everywhere								
St. Anton	55	140	Good	Varied	Good	Fair	-2	
Powder on good base								

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of America, the word "plase" means "plague" and "plase resort" means "plague resort".

**Towhees**

12:00: 1. Redbreasted Minnow (7-1 fac); 2. Blue Jay (3-1); 3. Crows (2-1); 4. Starlings (1-1); 5. Grackles (1-1); 6. House Wrens (1-1); 7. Robins (1-1); 8. Starlings (1-1); 9. Grackles (1-1); 10. House Wrens (1-1); 11. Robins (1-1); 12. Starlings (1-1); 13. Grackles (1-1); 14. House Wrens (1-1); 15. Robins (1-1); 16. Starlings (1-1); 17. Grackles (1-1); 18. House Wrens (1-1); 19. Robins (1-1); 20. Starlings (1-1); 21. Grackles (1-1); 22. House Wrens (1-1); 23. Robins (1-1); 24. Starlings (1-1); 25. Grackles (1-1); 26. House Wrens (1-1); 27. Robins (1-1); 28. Starlings (1-1); 29. Grackles (1-1); 30. House Wrens (1-1); 31. Robins (1-1); 32. Starlings (1-1); 33. Grackles (1-1); 34. House Wrens (1-1); 35. Robins (1-1); 36. Starlings (1-1); 37. Grackles (1-1); 38. House Wrens (1-1); 39. Robins (1-1); 40. Starlings (1-1); 41. Grackles (1-1); 42. House Wrens (1-1); 43. Robins (1-1); 44. Starlings (1-1); 45. Grackles (1-1); 46. House Wrens (1-1); 47. Robins (1-1); 48. Starlings (1-1); 49. 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and find. Coventry won an untidy game by two tries (8 pts) against a penalty goal and a try (3 pts).

Coventry's problem was twofold: natural use of the possession their forwards regularly gained; Rossie Park's troubles were a consequence of poor picking in defence and a poor second-hand handling error.

Both clubs should have been notified their faults with fervour and word in the New Year before the John Player Cup gets under way. They have good records in the past and should be encouraged. In particular, have begun to play with more purpose than they were showing a few weeks ago.

Gregory, Oliver and Shipdale are the players to watch out for. They are constantly involved and had much to do with harrying Rossie Park into mistakes in midfield.

[illegible][illegible]

...so much versatility brought so little reward in points. Possession from scrummage was Lincoln's strength by the time the scrum was broken. Walker's quickness won him more points than he could have scored as a scrum-half on the ball and had more individual skills. They also drew strength and a feeling of security from their scrum-half, their captain and full-back.

Outstanding in the three-quarter was Barclay, now a student at Loughborough after being at Northern Rugby Academy, the famous "Barnes" school. He was a complete opportunity, with speed and confidence.

A broad new view to the club this season straggled across the field. It was the "Barnes" school, the school of the "Cods" who had been in the loss. Barclay was the "Cods" try after Barclay had successfully struck a penalty goal.

[illegible]







## Top two will exchange their complementary gifts on Boxing Day

## Second half revival leaves much to be done

## Swindon given hard game

## Swindon given hard game

## Rehearsal of the week for play of the year

## Anfield routine unchanged

## Rackets

# Robins fights well against inevitable

## Swimming

## European sprint title plan

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973). The total chlorophyll content was determined by the method of Arar and Cook (1980). The carotenoid content was determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973). The total carotenoid content was determined by the method of Arar and Cook (1980). The total protein content was determined by the method of Lowry et al. (1951). The total lipid content was determined by the method of Bligh and Dyer (1959). The total carbohydrate content was determined by the method of Dubois and Gilles (1950). The total nucleic acid content was determined by the method of Burton (1956). The total ash content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total moisture content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total dry matter content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total organic acid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total alkaloid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total flavonoid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total phenol content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total tannin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total saponin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total sterol content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total glycoside content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total alkaloid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total flavonoid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total phenol content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total tannin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total saponin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total sterol content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total glycoside content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990).

## Protests as

## Skiing

## Protests as

## Athletics

## Athletes launch talks

17-216

## Challenge of

## Yachting

## Challenge of

## Weekend results

### FA Cup Second round replay

**Second Division**  
 Santa County 2 Newcombs 2  
 13 W. 13 E. 13 S. 13 T. 13 R.

**Scottish first division**

Arbroath	1	Ayr	1
Barwick	1	Clyde	1

## Television

### Boxing Day fixtures

**First division**  
**Arsenal v Tottenham (11.30) ....**

*(continued)*

**Third division**  
**Blackburn v. Mansfield** .....

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 35 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 17 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

**Fourth division**  
**Aldershot & Bournemouth** . . . . .

[illegible]

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to maintain in  
the world  
keep informed  
with  
The Times  
Special Reports**



## ENTERTAINMENTS

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D. Swan Lake. 65 Amphl sea  
or all parts from 10 am on d

## THEATRES

**THEATRES**

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GERALD KATE  
HARPER O'HARA

In the new  
**SHERLOCK HOLMES**

## Christmas prize arts quiz



# Art

What have the following couples in common: Marcel Duchamp and Jacques Villon; Naim Gabo and Antoine Pevsner; Lucian Pissarro and Ludovic Rodó?

What have the following men distinctively in common: Henry Moore; Graham Sutherland; Ben Nicholson? Who were:

- (a) Paolo Caliari;
- (b) Habirot K. Browne;
- (c) Domenikos Theotokopoulos;

## Film

1. Three of the biggest box-office successes of the seventies were *The Exorcist* (1973), *Jaws* (1975) and *Star Wars* (1977). Place them in ranking order of gross income.

2. Who is the odd (wo)man out among Ray Milland, Lilian Harvey, Anna Neagle, Bob Hope, Freddie Bartholomew, Cary Grant, Vivien Leigh, Laurence Olivier, Elizabeth Taylor, Ronald Colman, Stan Laurel and Charles Chaplin?

3. Howard Caye and Alex von Sydow?

4. What do the middle initials stand for:

(a) Daniel O. Selnick;  
(b) William S. Bushman;  
(c) Francis X. Bushman;  
(d) S.Z. ("Cuddles") Skallak;  
(e) Francis L. Sullivan;  
(f) Edward G. Robinson?

PICTURE QUESTIONS:  
(above) Whose are the legs;  
(top) Which of the actors was also the director of the film, which film, and why was the

## Music

- 1 In what context would you expect to find:
  - (a) The "Marseillaise" by Schumann;
  - (b) "God Save the King" by Beethoven;
  - (c) "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Stockhausen?
- 2 Appetites. Who said (or wrote):
  - (a) If music be the food of love, play on;
  - (b) Music is the brandy of the damned;
  - (c) If music be the break-fast food of love, kindly do not disturb until luncheon;
  - (d) Since Mozart's day composers have learnt the art of making music throatily and patpatpattingly sexual?
- 3 Who composed concertos or comparable works with the following as soloist(s):
  - (a) Coloratura soprano;
  - (b) String quartet;
  - (c) Piano trio;
  - (d) String trio;
  - (e) Horn quartet?
- 4 Who wrote symphonies:
  - (a) Ruric, elegiac, sacred and mystic;
  - (b) Expansive, inextinguishable and simple;
  - (c) Serious and singular?
- 5 How did the composer of *Don Giovanni* meet the composer of *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Moscow in 1898 and in London in 1979?
- 6 Who dedicated what to:
  - (a) My friends pictured within;
  - (b) Jean Sibelius . . . without permission;
  - (c) The memory of an angel;
  - (d) My many friends, the members of British orchestras?
- 7 Who was a tenor in 1607, and alto in 1762 and a dancer in 1948?
- 8 Who wrote, and about whom:
  - (a) I would like to admit all his operas to whichever purgatory punishes triumphant bacchality;

## Dance

How did Neptune end up in a Punch and Judy show, and what did that have to do with a wedding bouquet?

She went to the ball accompanied by an Italian in Aberdeen, an Austrian in Manchester and a Russian in London. Who is she and who are they?

Who was:

(a) The first British composer to have a work produced by the Diaghilev Ballet;

(b) Diaghilev's first British librettist?

Which well-known dancer:

(a) Took dancing classes in Shanghai and went on to leading roles at Sadler's Wells and Covent Garden;

(b) Had a new piece made for her this year by the choreographer who established her reputation?

The new ballet *Manfred* in which Diaghilev had his first professional connexion with Byron's poems. What was the earlier one?

What, balletically, do Albano and Genzano have in common?

FACTURE QUESTION: Antonin Dvorak's Festival Ballet. Name the (a) Which role he was playing; (b) Which role used to play in an earlier production; (c) What was his other connexion with Festival Ballet's repertoire; (d) What was his real name; (e) What was his first stage name?

## Prizes

offered for the two most accurate sets of answers received by first post on Friday, January 4, 1980. Answers should be addressed to *The Times* Christmas Arts Quiz, PO Box No. 27, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Names of the winners, together with complete answers, will be published on this page on Tuesday, January 8.

# Theatre

What Shakespearean explanation is there for the name of the RSC's second Stratford theatre, The Other Place?

What do Bill Wallis, John Wood and Ramaz Chikhradze recently have in common?

Which is the odd one out?

*Plunder* *Roostery*  
*Nook* *Charlie's Aunt* and *Banana Ridge*?

*Songbook*, at the Globe, is a tribute to the work of Cole Porter, Fats Waller, Stephen Sondheim or Moony Shapiro?

Which West End shows of 1973 were in the American gal?

(a) *Bachua*  
(b) *Dachua*  
(c) An undertaker's parlour.  
(d) A research laboratory.  
(e) A cricketer pavilion?

ACTURE QUESTION: Which London shows have carried these illustrations dead?

**THE TIMES**


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**HYDE PARK HOTEL**  
**On Thursday, December 27, and Friday, December 28, there**  
**will be an exhibition of the Sale of the Hyde Park**  
**Hotel of Works of Art to be sold in January by Christie's**  
**King Street and Christie's South Kensington.**

**Christie's King Street 1980 season will begin on THURSDAY,**  
**JANUARY 17, with a sale of Fine English Furniture.**

**Christie's South Kensington 1980 season will begin on**  
**JANUARY 2, 1980, with a sale of Marine and Sporting**  
**Pictures, Watercolours and Drawings.**



Bernard Levin says this column is not about smoking

## Introducing the Bisto Kid

I remember, for instance, a very swish set, probably by Kensitas, which consisted of real photographs, of scenery in Britain; I wish I had kept that one...

I know what I want to find in my stocking tomorrow; nor do I begrudge the extra cost the present will involve me in, which is the price of a large handkerchief, the purpose of which will be to mop up the tears of nostalgia that the thing will provoke.

A firm called Foster-Catlar, in Hatfield, has had the idea of buying a large collection of sets of cigarette-cards, framing them, and selling the result (each set split between two frames) as pictures to hang on the wall. The illustration in the advertisement looked charming, but to tell you the truth I don't really want them framed at all; the backs of the cards are, in my opinion, as important as the fronts, and anyway, I want to handle them.

I suppose I had better pause here and explain to my younger readers what I am talking about, as they will certainly have no means of knowing I don't. In the 1930's, cigarette manufacturers, to promote their brands, included in each pack of their product a card, measuring some 2½ inches by 1½. On the verso, there was a picture; on the recto, a text concerning the illustration. There was also a number from one to 50; and therein lies the heart of the matter.

For the cards were not designed with random interest in mind; each set of 50 had a theme of its own, and the idea from the cigarette manufacturers' point of view was that the collector would want to complete the set and would therefore have to go on buying cigarettes until he had done so. And this might be quite a long time, because although as far as I know the number of copies of each card of a set was the same, there was nothing on the outside of the packet to indicate which card was inside.

In practice, I suppose, most

of the collecting was done not by the smokers but by the smokers' children. The only smoker in my home was my grandfather (though he was a 50-a-day man, lived to be 84, and used his very last breath not to speak memorable words but to take a puff on a cigarette); his preferred brand was Kensitas, which I seem to remember went in for some very classic cards than the other manufacturers, including one spectacular set not of cards but of leaves of silk, on which were reproduced the flags of the nations. But if one's smoking relations stuck to a single brand, the scope for card-collecting in the family circle was limited, and there was only one solution. We used to hang about the doorways of tobacconists, and accost emerging purchasers with a cry of "Got any cigarette-cards, mister?"

This, no doubt, conjures up for you a picture so startling that you find it difficult to believe. Reckless Jack Levin, the man of many schemes, was a familiar with Levin the gourmet and bibber of fine wines, because although as far as I know the number of copies of each card of a set was the same, there was nothing on the outside of the packet to indicate which card was inside. In practice, I suppose, most

Well, *tempora mutantur*; my rough youth is behind me, and I propose to elaborate on the fact that I collected cigarette-cards in my youth, and gathered my manna where it was to be found. The range of subjects covered by the cards was astonishing; the advertisement that set me off on this *recherche du passé* listed 20 sets, but each from Wills and Players. Footballers, Film Stars and Motor Cars are obvious enough, though I cannot recall ever having been sufficiently interested to collect any of these. But even in this list, which represents what must have been a total of many hundreds (remember that the manufacturers regularly and frequently phased out one set and introduced a new one), there are such less obviously appealing subjects as Household Hints, Air Raid Precautions (if my younger readers will come back next week, I will tell them what an Air Raid was, and what Precautions you took against it), Military Uniforms, Old Flowers, Butterflies and Old Bicycles.

And also Railway Equipment. This is one of the sets I remember collecting myself, and what is more, completing; many a set, inevitably, was left unfinished, but for this one I bagged the lot for a brisk trade in

"swaps" went on all the time of course, and one's surplus copies of those cards acquired in duplicate or triplicate might be exchanged for the missing ones in another set, as I did with a set of Coronation Regalia, and one of Schoobey Regalia, from which I learned, among other items of information I have never succeeded in forgetting, that Julius Caesar must have been a very strong man because he threw a bridge across the Rhine that a nymph is a female nymph and an episode the wife of an apostle, and that when Wellington died it took eight men to carry the bier.

Of the ones I remember, only Railway Equipment is included in the present offer; I think I could recite the details of many of the cards in it to this day, though how I ever became interested in the Westinghouse Brake System I cannot imagine. The point is, however, that the cards were, for the most part, not rubbish and were prepared with considerable care. The text on the back was correct and generally informative, and some of the fronts extremely attractive. I remember, for instance, a very swish set (probably by Kensitas) which consisted of real photographs of scenery in Britain; I wish I had kept that one. (Indeed, I wish I had kept

them all—complete sets of the rarer ones change hands today at substantial prices.)

From time to time, one of the tobacco companies thinks of starting the issue of cards again (they disappeared with paper rationing at the beginning of the war), but the industry as a whole is against the idea, no doubt because of the cost involved, and since it would almost certainly have to be all manufacturers or none, it seems that we shall never see them again. The cost, incidentally, must have been considerable; in addition to the preparation and manufacture of the cards, there were, as I recall, albums to hold them, and I think you got one of these free, at any rate from some manufacturers, when you completed a set.

My memories of collecting cigarette-cards include some of the most notable misunderstandings of my youth. There was a series on sportsmen, for instance, which gave you a biography of the player illustrated, ending with a question to which the answer was "What was his name?" I remember, for instance, a woman golfer on one of the set, and the question was: "Has she holed in one?" Having no knowledge of the game of golf, I was quite unable to understand the question, and puzzled

over it in vain for a long time. (I cannot now recall whether I ever got the card with the answer, but presumably it said only "Yes" or "No" which would not have got me much further.)

Another such crux came in the series of Howlers, in the form of a dialogue: "How high is Mount Blanc?" "How high is the mountain?" This, a feeble enough pun anyway, was only intelligible to those who had heard of Mount Blanc; I never had for that. The untranslatable substance was unknown in my home, and it took me approximately 17 years to see the joke, which may well be a record. But worst of all from this point of view was a set called Famous Minors. My spelling in those days was by no means what it has since become, and I assumed that Minors were people who worked underground hewing coal. Even at that age, I could not quite see Lady Jane Grey and the poet Keats as the same person, but there they were in the set, and I assumed, in the trusting way of childhood, that they must have done a stint at the hewing business before coming down to their brief life on earth.

I suppose somebody has written, or is writing, an immense scholarly study of the cigarette-card, somebody else, no doubt, is working on an analysis of its role in social history. Wordy endeavours, no doubt. But if the authors grew up after the war there will be something missing from their books, something that could only be truly understood by those who had themselves collected cigarette-cards in their youth, and can in consequence tell you, as I proudly can, when a card does in what it is doing. If you don't ask it, Merry Christmas.

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## Why the Warwick Vase belongs to Glasgow

Slowly rising from its foundations, Pollok Park, Glasgow, is a building which will eventually house the amazing multi-million pound Burrell Art Collection. A bad year for building has delayed the day when Glaswegians can admire the 3,000 works of art hanging in the most significant and important private collection in the world and it is unlikely that the Burrell Gallery will be ready to receive visitors until 1983. Completion, date, has already slipped by its months as costs escalate alarmingly. The original price of £12m. currently stands at nearer £14m. and it is feared the final bill could be £20m.

Meanwhile, the art works remain sequestered in a secret store in Glasgow. The consolation for the taxpayers is that the collection is rising in value at perhaps a faster rate than the cost of the building. Two years ago, the collection was valued at £5m. but the increase in the value of objects at the time of the collection's worth at around £50m. and rising daily.

It was given to Glasgow by the late Sir William Burrell, a millionaire shipping magnate, and has ever since been a pleasing embarrassment to the city. The first part of the collection came into Glasgow's care in 1944, but Sir William lived on another 14 years. His testamentary collection was valued at £97, a further 2,000 items were added to the city's safekeeping.

Sir William, who, paradoxically, had the reputation of being a miser, had provided £450,000 in cash to cover the cost of building a museum to house his remarkable gift to the city where he was born. The gesture was generous at the time, but by today's standards was not enough.

The collection is still being added to. Recently, the trustees with the Scottish Heritage Fund, the National Art Collections Fund and two anonymous charities, together acquired the gargantuan 'Warwick Vase', a 17th-century masterpiece.

It stands 9ft high, has a beam of seven feet between the handles and weighs eight and a quarter tons. The vase was removed in pieces from the vaults of the House of Lords in 1771, by the Scottish painter, Gavin Hamilton, and was painted to look like a classical vase, which was bought by Sir William Burrell in 1944.

It was worth publishing books which alerted people to what happens to children in the streets, poverty and immigration. "It was worth setting up a national legal centre for children."

The fact is that the British public cannot give responsibility for the care of children to the State, or to the voluntary organizations. If they want children properly cared for, they must vote accordingly.

My favourite musical manifestation is in the entrance to an office building on Madison Avenue. A group of instruments have been placed in a 'choir' to produce a sound which is a podium equipped with a baton, on which the public are invited to act out their fantasies of conducting a Christmas concert.

In a similar vein, the 'pale of

the only building with a floor strong enough to withstand its weight. Mr. Alastair, director of Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum Service, had no wish to go down in history as the man who broke the Warwick Vase or who made a gigantic hole in the museum floor.

It may seem an odd place to put it, but I believe there could be a useful exchange in having engineers looking at another form of art and paying a visit to the vase. The vase is a masterpiece of the beauty of an old 'tram'. Mr. Auld reflected. Already, there have been small 'cracks' in the vase in its mechanical 'straining' to support its weight. It is a pity, but it is a pity how it moved, where its starting wheel was, and who on search rode round in such a machine.

Burrell's inventory of his collection is contained in a number of exercise books filled with spidery handwriting. There are listed superb medieval tapestries, a collection of stained glass, enough to shame some cathedrals, sculpture in wood and stone, and smaller medieval pieces. There are important collections of Chinese porcelain and pottery, and nineteenth-century French painting.

The 'Warwick Vase' is a masterpiece of the beauty of an old 'tram'. Mr. Auld reflected. Already, there have been small 'cracks' in the vase in its mechanical 'straining' to support its weight. It is a pity, but it is a pity how it moved, where its starting wheel was, and who on search rode round in such a machine.

The running costs will be about a million a year, an additional worry for the city fathers who are growing increasingly anxious about the high cost of holding priceless treasures.

What greatly alarms the museum service was a suggestion within the council that the best way of finding the money to house the art collection, would be to sell a few of them off. Any such move would be heavily resisted by the 'Warwick Vase' service.

housings and other urgent calls for capital, selling off pieces of art might prove a disastrous precedent and it has been regarded as an 'off-limits' move. The Glasgow Museum service will quickly point out that more people visit their year than go to football matches.

On my little island between Manhattan and Queens, the boys scout hold the Christmas tree monopoly, selling them from an unoccupied shop on the main street. The apartments on the island are all modern and have uniform ceiling heights of about 9ft, but some of the trees exceeded that.

Over-ambitious buyers found they could not squeeze theirs in so they took them back to exchange them or to have bit-locked off. Everyone has a handy meal stand which keeps the trees upright and includes a trough for water to prevent them drying out and losing their needles. I have not seen such stands in England though no doubt readers will write in droves to tell me they exist.

Our tree this year was of modest size, giving the ceiling generous clearance, but of pleasing regular shape. I hauled it in, placed it on its stand and they lit up at the first attempt and I pondered the joys of Christmas in a technologically advanced society. Have a happy one.

Michael Leapman

## Brussels must keep its hands off our charities

An early warning has been sounded about a potential threat to British charities under any fiscal harmonization within the EEC. It has been suggested that charities could lose about a third of their income if it came about.

There seems to be a healthy suspicion in Brussels that the back benches that a possibility could become a probability, rather like the wine lakes and butter mountains that seemed to materialize overnight, as one member said.

A "hands-off" notice has already been served with the Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, being asked to ensure that our charities, which are generally regarded as being among the most caring, efficient and best-supported in the world, must not be annihilated financially by Brussels. They play a much larger part in British life than

is the case elsewhere in Europe. Mr. Anthony Beaumont-Dark (MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak) recently pointed out in the European Community debate that every constituency in Britain had a charity of one kind or another. Every member, as it were, therefore had a vested interest.

He said the total annual income of charities in Britain was nearly £2,000m and continued: "People give to these organizations from the largest, such as Oxfam, or relief for Cambodia, to a church donation because they wished to help others. If fiscal harmonization takes place the charities will have to raise an additional £600m to enable them to continue to work at their present level."

"Our European colleagues, despite their many virtues, do not allow tax relief or covenant relief to churches or to charities. If the EEC is to mean anything—I sometimes wonder—needs fiscal harmonization to weld it together. But if fiscal harmonization takes place, anyone believe that the £600m will be forthcoming in further donations? People will simply not have the money to spare."

"We should remember that most of the good done by so many churches, charities and covenants—certainly the larger ones—will be brought virtually to an end by fiscal harmonization."

"Many charities commit their income for years ahead and it is to do any good. Their income would be cut by 30 per cent at the end of fiscal harmonization. I urge people not to forget the sum involved simply because small organiza-

tions are involved. When we talk of the benefits or lack of benefits of the Market we should remember that benefits from charities, covenants and churches are important issues to many thousands of people who receive them."

"I hope we shall fight hard and vigorously; if we do not stand up for these things they will fall."

He said that within recent months the charities had started losing income from covenants through the reduction in the taxation base rate which had meant lower repayments. Added to this was the increase in VAT and inflation.

"If we think what a further threat from Europe would mean in terms of social deprivation, the whole area must be taken into account. It is vital that the spirit of goodwill and generosity always so abun-

dantly evident in this country is not threatened. It would be a tragedy of monumental proportions."

The most recent report of the Charities Aid Foundation, which is devoted primarily to promoting and helping distribution of charity funds, had warned there was an almost total lack of appreciation of the size of the operation in Britain.

Mr. J. N. Livingston Booth, the foundation's director, said: "Most people who should know better when asked to estimate the total income of charity gains between £1m and £10m. The magnitude is such however that charity should now equate with government and big business as the third great provider for our society. It is the income of charity, approached to the dividends paid by all British companies is to make a state-

ment that many will find startling and even incredible.

"Charity in this country is not just a shining in a box, a summer fête or a fashionable gesture, it is by any financial standards a very significant operation indeed."

"Private giving for the benefit of the community is a major factor in our society."

Arthur Osman

## The UK children who are still not OK

"Being poor means being sad on the first day of school. My little girl can't have a uniform. The head teacher says it won't be covered by the Department of Health and Social Security or the education authority as it is not compulsory. The fact remains that the only children without one are from families that can't afford it."

"Being poor means finding a flat for £10 and having the DHSS refuse to pay more than £20 so your child is sent into care and you are lodged in a doss house with no bathroom."

These two statements from single parents highlight the poverty in Britain today. They are listed in a pamphlet published for the International Year of the Child which also gives the shocking statistics of children living in poverty, squalor and overcrowding.

In 1978, 500,000 children were living in families where family income was below the official poverty level even though one or both parents worked full-time; almost one million lived in families that had to depend on supplementary benefit because the head of the family was sick, unemployed or elderly or a single parent; 100,000 were in local authority

care; 300,000 were living in flats above the second floor; and about 300,000 were left alone either at school or in the school holidays.

What has the UK Association for the International Year of the Child done during 1979 to combat the misery that some suffer during childhood?

Because the association has more than 600 members, including local community groups, charities, churches, trade unions, youth organizations and pressure groups, it has had to do some juggling to produce a programme acceptable to everyone.

Its activities have come under three headings: raising issues, setting up projects and arranging events for children. Operating from a condemned building in Whitehall provided by the Government, the Secretariat has done all in its power to ensure that as many people as possible became involved.

Mrs Judith Stone, the director, took as her model the Jubilee Year in which many people started off with a cynical attitude but ended up becoming involved in spite of themselves. Of the three strands that went to make up the year she thought that the raising of

issues had been the most important. The association has published pamphlets on immigrant children, children in care, children in poverty, corporal punishment and the spiritual rights of the child.

The pamphlet on corporal punishment was published by the Inner London Education Authority's debate on the subject and might have influenced their decision to ban it from their schools.

The projects which the association has set up include a holiday camp for handicapped children in south Pembrokeshire, Dyfed, which is expected to open in 1981, a children's art centre and a scheme to help lonely children.

Perhaps the most ambitious project is the children's legal centre. The Department of Health and Social Security has provided a £9,900 grant for a nine-month feasibility study on the project.

Before a centre would aim at improving the child's position in law, in relation to such issues as care proceedings, custody cases and long-stay hospitals. It is likely that it would consider cases of advice or represent children's organizations, produce

publications and undertake research in areas of possible reform.

Projects for children in the developing world adopted by the United Kingdom association include fund raising for children in Kampuchea and the Vietnamese boat people, TB vaccination in Nepal, polio vaccination in South Africa and blinding malnutrition in India.

Events for children made up the third strand of the association's work. While local groups provided a myriad of entertainments, festivals and competitions, the main national events were the great children's party in Hyde Park attended by 160,000 in May and the Young People's Parliaments held in London, Coventry, and Wales.

Did the association set its priorities right? Was the balance between the different threads correct? The charities which participated seem satisfied with the results. The year has enabled the public to become aware of their existence, few of them would maintain that children are better off at the end of the year than they were at the beginning.

When the year benefit was raised in April by £1 to £4, the full increase was only enjoyed

by those not paying tax and the value of the increase has since been eroded by inflation.

The Education Bill going through Parliament cuts the number of children entitled to free food at lunchtime by more than a half, and lifts the requirement that schools have to provide free transport for children. Several charities are seriously disturbed by the bill's consequences.

Mrs Stone agreed that children in schools and from the poorest families were worse off at the end of the year, but said it was a total misreading of such a year to think that it could reverse or counteract the work of Government.

"It was still worth having. It was worth publishing books which alerted people to what happens to children in the streets, poverty and immigration. 'It was worth setting up a national legal centre for children.'

The fact is that the British public cannot give responsibility for the care of children to the State, or to the voluntary organizations. If they want children properly cared for, they must vote accordingly."

Annabel Ferriman

## NEW YORK DIARY

Christmas in New York begins immediately after Thanksgiving Day at the end of November. On that day Macy's, the world's largest store, organizes a procession in which Santa Claus, bringing up the rear, drives his reindeer from Central Park along Broadway to take up residence in the store for the season.

It is a characteristic New York event. There are marching bands, drum majorettes, a procession in which Santa Claus, bringing up the rear, drives his reindeer from Central Park along Broadway to take up residence in the store for the season.

What makes it somewhat symbolic of this accommodating city is that much of the route is along the part of Broadway most saturated with porridge graphic attractions. Mouse, Snoopy and the Muppets gambol gaily past the Pussycat adult cinema, with its lurid pink pictures, and the Ramrod all made theatre, open 24 hours, next door.

Thanksgiving also marks the start of the season of "Christmas specials" on television, as much a part of the American festive season as the Christmas cracker is of the British. (Crackers, by the way, cannot be bought here. If you ask for them in shops you are offered water biscuits. If you ask for

biscuits you get scones, but that is another story.)

The specials are mainly films featuring one or more popular cartoon characters in a seasonal setting. The first this year was "Frosty the snowman" meets Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer. Then we had "John Denver meets the Muppets", "Santa and the three bears", "Raggedy Ann and Andy in the great Christmas caper", "How the Grinch stole Christmas" and so on and so on, ad nauseam—and believe me, ad nauseam does not take long to reach.

For the most part the same specials are dusted off and screened every Christmas, on the sound principle that millions of tiny viewers come to them fresh every year and that for the others familiarity is half the fun. A few new ones are added to the repertoire annually, which is why their season now has to begin in November to get through them all.

They and abruptly a couple of days before Christmas, which is puzzling at first but explicable if you think about the economics. The commercial reason for so many children's shows is that they provide an unrivalled medium for advertising toys.

Every gap in the action is plugged with advertisements for the latest irresistible board

game, car racing set or technological gadgetry, for the young viewers are bugged by their parents by Christmas Eve for another year so the specials, and thus the advertisements, lose their point.

Television is not the only medium to exploit children shamelessly with the aim of siphoning off their parents' money. The telephone company does it, too, with its well-promoted service of Christmas stories from many lands, a different one every day all through December, each at the price of a local call.

Before I begin to sound like Ebenezer Scrooge, let me assure you that the real purpose of this festive column is to tell you what a wonderfully Christmassy city New York is. While it cannot pretend to be covered, half-timbered coaching scenes of the greetings cards, it has created its own Christmas traditions which are no less potent.

I have to start at Rockefeller Centre, the midtown skyscraper office complex, which has always placed so admirably high priority on giving pleasure to the passer-by. When it was being built in the early thirties it was the first building site to erect galleries for people who wanted to watch the work in progress.



The extravagantly lit tree in its plaza is the focal point of the city's festivities. Television commentators call it the biggest Christmas tree in the world but they cannot know that and suspect it to be native chauvinism.

It is a tremendous sight in any case, soaring above the permanent floodlighted figure of a leaping Prometheus, whose

flaming torch looks as if it might set the whole display ablaze. With paper lanterns and make graceful patterns on the recessed rink enhancing the seasonal spirit.

Best of all I like the 12 herald angels, sculpted in wire, pointing their trumpets to heaven in a pattern which, from Fifth Avenue, seems to frame the Christmas tree in a triumphal arch. They are the work of Mrs Valerie Clarebout, who first designed them in 1954, two years after arriving in New York from England.

They were one in a series of displays she did, changing the theme every year. The angels were so popular that in 1969 the authorities decided to put them up every Christmas. Department stores, with their electric window displays, add to the general gaiety. Those at Lord and Taylor are always so popular that crowd barriers are erected to the streets to organize an orderly queue past them.

Last year the windows were grayer, darker scenes showing contemporary landmarks. This year they have reached back to the past for tableaux of high life in the city's opulent restaurants in earlier periods. The careful and loving detail and the sense of wit place them far ahead of any I have seen elsewhere.

Music is a literally inescapable part of the New York festive season. With popular seasonal melodies flowing out of loudspeakers in office and hotel lobbies and lifts. Amateur choral groups give carol concerts in churches and public halls.

On one of the first really cold evenings of December, Macy's (I am sorry if this column is beginning to read like an advertisement, but the big stores do tend to dominate life at this time of year), organized a sing-along in Herald Square, just outside their gates. Several hundred people, well swathed in scarves and mittens, turned up to join in.

The singing was led by their employees' choir, one of whom had written a song for the occasion. Local companies and the All Star Trio led the audience dancing on the pavement to his "Holiday Boogie Woogie".

My favourite musical manifestation is in the entrance to an office building on Madison Avenue. A group of instruments have been placed in a 'choir' to produce a sound which is a podium equipped with a baton, on which the public are invited to act out their fantasies of conducting a Christmas concert.

In a similar vein, the 'pale of

great marble lions outside the public library on Fifth Avenue, which eventually have Christmas decorations, have their necks (which are just as traditionally stolen) have this year been equipped with electronic roars, both to frighten off thieves and for the surprise and enjoyment of pedestrians.

Pantomimes as such are unknown here, though a musical version of Peter Pan has been drawing crowds on Broadway since the summer. Of the many other seasonal shows, we went to see an off-off-Broadway version of a Christmas Carol, done by a group called the Ridiculous Theatre Company in Greenwich Village.

I am always struck by the high degree of professionalism in off-Broadway and off-off-Broadway troupes, and this was no exception. I went prodigiously and was only slightly disappointed by the campy parody of a few of the main parts—perhaps the wrong impression from the pantomime dance of England.

One pleasing trend this year seems to be an increase in the number of real Christmas trees for sale in shops. The trees are decorated with the most festive of decorations, and the trees are decorated with the most festive of decorations, and the trees are decorated with the most festive of decorations.

Michael Leapman





## ANGER, THEOLOGICALS AT WORK

led by commerce and duller by means of a Christmas festival. It is one of the few times in the year when the city is not a city of the year, but a city of the year.

And it is true, this tremendous tale of all? one given to reflect upon it hardly have failed to notice the meaning of the Incarnation, which is to be understood by the doctrine, is currently at the heart of a theological controversy, as for his Christological ones as much as for his rejection from papal infallibility. That Professor Hans Küng, alien of Rome and his bishops, Fr. Edward Schillebeeckx has been challenged on the same subject. A couple of ago the Church of England a tremor when a collection says entitled *The Myth of Incarnation* canvassed similar more provocatively and rigorously.

### ifth century

odoxy concerning the Incarnation was fixed by the Council of Chalcedon in 451. It is clear expression to a very Jesus Christ is true God and man; one person in two, the divine and human, are united in him without division, without change, without separation. That was meant to set the of legitimate speculation; or many centuries in the history it did. But not since Monophysite Christians argued on until beaten chism. And not now, since giants of today, returning the task of reconciling the doctrine and the contrary modes of thought of men, do not all feel d to observe Keep Off s posted in the fifth Y. king back on the decade is about to end, one sees ular culture in this part world anyway is gradually us impulse (if not also to red religion with roots)—useful than at any time, as since the beginning of ze of Enlightenment.

tivist science, once solve of faith, is much less elling now as a sufficient ple of social action or as a ent explanation of ex- which is not to say e is any less confident ad as a means of material ment or a tool of power, y ideologies of the loose y like humanitarian ss or the tight variety like un-Leninism are less ously encountered. But the weather is warmer e the church door, the of disputation within is than before: not the

### id Wood

## st of the line corridor liticians

rice of thanksgiving for the id work of Robert Carr, if Carr, in St. Mark's Church, Westminster, a week ago, weighed upon me for as well as private reasons, hope I may help in some of the things that will his grave. He was the last of himself called "the politicians", the long-serving backbenchers who do not covet y the highest places and yet in the House of Commons e to be loved and honoured e of ends, and fascination it is making history or belly and trivial.

the corridor politician is more lit, or rather was. When he Chamber (his seat would be empty on any occasion, prayers to "Who goes") he went out into the cor- the library, the smoking and the dining room, perhaps political club to source the sides of the House until he predict the figures for every in as well as bring the first of any political marriage that or its bloom.

ing 40 years he gave to use of Commons, Robert Carr held an appointment higher assistant Whip, although he rived in turn Leo Amery and Crookshank as godfather, a secretary, working the cor- in their interest and for their tion. As he aged he served committees of the House, ave unmeasured time as a e of the Commons resis- e for retired members and the e of members.

suffered disappointments and le without any trace of biter. He lost his seat in the 1945

bickering of sects, but the collision of schools. The main jobs to traditional Christianity are coming from within the fold. So it was at the time of the Reformation, and so it was when historical criticism of biblical texts, which also spread from Germany, helped to unsettle nineteenth-century belief. Now nothing is excused radical examination: liturgical, canonical, scriptural, creeds. The exponents claim a freedom of inquiry equal to that which is taken for granted in the secular reaches of their society. At the bottom of it all are the theologians.

The general standing of theology has been improving. As Queen of the Sciences she was long ago deposed and has been living in provincial surroundings. She is not poised to regain her throne; that would require a counter-revolution of alarming magnitude. But things are looking up. People pay court to her again. There is even a whiff of well-bred scandal about her doings to command popular attention.

The German genius for theological innovation has flourished through this century as it did the last. Its effects have recently been more widely diffused. The perils of the Second Vatican Council played a crucial, conservative, a calamitous, part in putting the Curia temporarily to flight. In English universities theology has once more become an object of intellectual curiosity and is quite widely read in conjunction with other subjects by undergraduates who have no intention of taking holy orders. When *The Times* published a letter the other day signed by 83 home-bred academic theologians surprise was expressed that the point of a needle, or for that matter the UGC, provided standing room for so many.

At the other end of the world the "theology of liberation" (which is built around the proposition that liberation from political and economic oppression is a necessary temporal manifestation of the spiritual salvation Christianity promises) is a force in Latin America, where it was chiefly developed, and in Africa. Pope John Paul II at Puebla in Mexico almost a year ago seemed neither to dare nor condemn it, but rather to deflect its thrust in line with his own passionate commitment to human rights and dignity.

### Duty to define

So much intellectual activity, excitement even, where caution and torpor have often made their abode, must be welcome. But when the kernel of the subject matter is divinely revealed truth, the welcome can hardly be without reserve among those charged with the guardianship of revelation. That is a responsibility invested in the church, even on a low estimate of the church's role on earth. On a high estimate such as is entertained at Rome, the responsibility becomes a duty to define, promulgate, and defend. Dogmatic truth is precious, intrinsically

landslide, and knew better than any body else that by a five-year absence he had forfeited his claim to any promotion. Alec Douglas-Home (if I may be indiscreet) promised him a peerage after the 1964 general election, and then could not afford to risk a by-election in Wiltshire, Manchester, or Heath in 1974, he had other in mind for his resignation honours.

As he was the last of the true corridor politicians, so he was the last of the old-fashioned constituency members. He once chaired me, the minister of the Washington Conservative Association at the turn of the century. One page recorded the passing of a vote of thanks to the then Member "on the occasion of his annual visit". Robert Carr's name was different. He knew that a politician had to keep a marginal seat warm. If he employed a secretary I never heard of her; he answered all constituency letters by holograph postcard, and at his party conferences luncheon for constituency workers I heard how they treasured the direct personal touch. The postcards became keepsakes.

There were times when Robert Carr did not pass Government, or party first. As Julian Amery said at St Margaret's Church, he was one of the baker's dozen of Conservative backbenchers who rebelled and refused to vote for the Government. He was the only one to resign over Neville Chamberlain's foreign policy. He was a cavalryman before he was a politician, and like Harold Macmillan, he was a soldier. He left Ardingly School to take a regular commission in the Dragoon Guards, and he was not old enough to shave when he first arrived in the front line. It marked them as it marked them all; and that may explain why, in the House and in the corridors, he gave the impression of being more than a party man. Former leaders and politicians of all parties attended his memorial service.

I am old enough, or old fashioned enough, to regard "the life and works" of Robert Carr as wholly admirable, and that is not likely to be explained because, as all of us are, he was first, not to the sports page, but to the obituary columns of *The Times*. It is rather that I believe Robert Carr did more direct good as an ordinary back-

and for salvation. Error in that matter is too important to be indulged. How the separately organized Christian churches respond to the stimulus of their radical theologians will depend on the habits and character of such churches. And their responses are likely to (already do) highlight their differences of habit and character. That in turn may affect inter-church relations.

The flurry of activity in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at Rome, where Küng and Schillebeeckx are only the two most prominent of the names to have attracted investigation or censure, is watched with apprehension or at least mixed feelings from within the Anglican and other reformed churches. Not that Anglicans and others are wanting who share the view that Christian theologians are duty bound to work within the limits implied by the major catholic definitions of Christian doctrine. Just as there are Anglicans who are not particularly disturbed, as some in all churches find themselves to be, by the fact that the new Pope makes two very different sorts of impression: the impression made by his public personality and the impression made by his public utterances.

### 'Something deeper'

Dr Robert Runcie, about to be Archbishop of Canterbury, has characterized the first of these impressions. The Pope, he says, seems to put his arms round the world. "He somehow meets the inarticulate searching of so many people for something deeper in life, than the kind of shallow materialism that often surrounds us." In his utterance and his action upon them, whether concerning worship or doctrine or morals or clerical discipline, the Pope emerges as a strict constructionist of the rules as they have come to be laid down—and many Roman Catholics breathe a sigh of relief that they have such a Pope again.

The two impressions, while causing some surprise in conjunction, are not contradictory; though the first warns hosts of people who are out of sympathy with the second. But whatever may be thought in the Anglican Church about the propriety of theologians or the complexities of the Pope's person, one thing is sure. The reappearance of even a wraith of the Inquisition hanging in the Curia and the Pope's association with it evokes ancestral memories whose tendency can only be to chill the carefully kindled warmth of Anglican-Roman relations.

Or perhaps that is not precisely the effect of Pope John Paul's entry upon the scene. Perhaps it is rather to substantiate the view of ecclesiology which holds that it is programme enough for this generation at any rate, to achieve at all levels of the churches' dealings with each other a Christian courtesy purged of all residual rancour; and to achieve also full collaboration in the task of doing good in the world. To labour for congruence of doctrine and discipline for the purpose of effecting mergers is another day's work.

benchers than any dozen of the new entry party, as random who went to be supported by secretaries and research assistants and to spend the better part of every day in departmental committees or in their offices at the Norman Shaw building along the Embankment.

In a sense, we have today a House of Commons more out of touch with quinquennial politics than any I remember because parliamentary life has moved out of the Chamber and out of the corridors. If a Member of Parliament goes out of the Chamber, he must be the chairman of a House committee or an officer of a backbench committee. Come what may, he must have executive rank of some sort, until nowadays you could make a paper dart of a Commons order paper, throw it, and be sure it will hit a backbench MP as a member of the government or the anti-government, more than on career than service.

Visit the House of Commons, or even the House of Lords today, and you find the corridors filled with witnesses—civil servants, CBI industrialists, trade unionists, and all the rest—waiting to be called into the committee rooms to reach members of the alphabet on any subject you care to mention. And if you want to talk to a member of the Commons you must needs go out of the Palace along the embankment, to the old Scotland Yard building to find him sitting amid expensive furniture in a room you could not rent at under £20,000 a year. He will have several my idea of what is going on in the House, and will simply tell you what goes on in his own possibly uninteresting head.

The corridor politician has fallen out of fashion. We no longer have MPs who can moisten a thumb and tell us what wind lists, what tides are surging, or why the awful storm will blow itself out and leave behind the peace that peacekeepers understand. They are sitting in offices, like sharp City executives, making work for themselves on the Parkinson principle. Robert Carr, along with a few others like Michael Foot and Enoch Powell, saw through the pretension, and pointed to the authentic role and powers of backbenchers. A politician who does not really know the Chamber or the corridors wastes his time, and ours.

## Jurors as the sole judges of fact

From Mr Bernard Lever

Sir, It is the well settled Law of England that when a man is accused of a criminal offence a statement by the accused is inadmissible if there is no evidence against him. Following the acquittals on Wednesday at the Old Bailey before Judge Alan King-Hamilton, the learned judge commented that the verdicts were "remarkably merciful in the face of the evidence". He directed the jury to return to hear the co-accused's statement, as stated, is no evidence against those acquitted; the reason why the statement was not drawn to the jury's attention during the trial.

This sort of judicial comment, as well as the practice of some judges to inform juries, following acquittal, of a defendant's previous convictions, is to be regretted. Any student of law knows that conviction for 10 burglaries is no evidence of the commission of an eleventh. Judges are obliged to direct juries that "they and they alone are the judges of fact" and if the jury, in their capacity as sole judges of fact, acquit, then judges ought to abide loyalty by their verdicts. If they do not do so and make the comments to which I have referred, whilst the legal profession know the measure of judicial impartiality, the uninitiated layman could be forgiven for thinking that the judge had assumed the mantle of the prosecution and had an axe to grind in the case.

If Judge King-Hamilton is correct in thinking that the acquittals were against the weight of the evidence, it is to be hoped that this was because the jury resented his random constitution being "tampered with" by vetting.

Vetting, drawn up at a clandestine meeting between three officers of the law, is one of our most sacred constitutional safeguards to the liberty of us all. It is to be hoped that "vetted" juries will continue to acquit, in accordance with their oath and conscience, until the invidious practice of jury vetting ceases.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD LEVER,  
27 Pine Road,  
Manchester 20,  
December 20.

### EEC farm spending

From the Director of the National Consumer Council  
Sir, I read with alarm Hugh Clayton's agriculture report (*The Times*, December 17). Consumer organizations, as well as the food manufacturing industry, have drawn attention to the inflationary effects of supporting farm incomes through wastefully high food prices. The crisis in this country's relationship with the EEC centres on just this point. The Community Budget, to which this country pays so much, is dominated by the cost of storing and exporting subsidised prices the food which European consumers cannot afford to buy.

We find it difficult to credit that a Government committed to making the EEC a better balanced community should be so brazenly to bring inflation under control by sound monetary policies could agree to yet a further general increase in food prices, regardless of the considerations of the market place. It is quite clear what the consequences of an increase in the price of food would be: more money for the taxpayer to support the production of food which EEC consumers will not or cannot afford to buy and which can be found a market only by massive subsidies. If manufacturing industry demanded increases in price without any regard to the likely effect on the market for its products, it would be laughed out of court. The Common Agricultural Policy is in effect acting as a tax on food. What is the justification for this tax?

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY MITCHELL,  
Director,  
National Consumer Council,  
18 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

### The miners' ballot

From Mr Raymond Franks  
Sir, The Head Master of Bloxham School thinks more praise should be given to the miners for "leading the way in democracy" and setting the example of "an additional £1,000 a year, or so) instead of striking (December 14).

This may cause some cynics to smile. They may say that if Mr Franks were a miner, he would be motivated by anything other than self interest, he will believe anything. Yours faithfully,  
RAYMOND FRANKS,  
Stables Cottage,  
West Manor,  
Bampton,  
Oxford.

### Put out by a cab driver

From Mr John Redfern  
Sir, London cabbies the best in the world. Nonsense! When I had an accident I had to use taxis several times a day for two months. I had crutches and it was not easy to get in or out of a cab. But only once did a cabbie dislodge himself and come round to me. Yours faithfully,  
JOHN REDFERN,  
Abbott's Walk,  
Cerne Abbas,  
Dorset.

### Body blow

From the Director of Keston College  
Sir, Michael Binyon is in error when he writes (December 19) that Stalin's embalmed body was removed from the mausoleum in 1956. I saw it there in 1959 and it remained until 1961. Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX,  
Director,  
Keston College,  
Kent.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Lowering unemployment benefit

From Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead (Labour)

Sir, I presume the point of your article "Taking the dose off the index" (December 20), was to show how absurd and unjust is the suggestion of breaking the link between the level of unemployment benefit and rise in prices. The reasons you put in support of this idea were that it would save public money and reduce the numbers of low-paid workers in the poverty trap.

How valid are these arguments? Breaking the link between the revision of unemployment benefit and inflation will only save a sizeable sum of money if the Government allows unemployment pay to fall massively behind the rise in prices. And because about half of the unemployed are now dependent on supplementary benefit, are you advocating three supplementary benefit rates: the long-term rate paid to pensioners and some other beneficiaries, the short-term rate, and a still less generous supplementary benefit for the unemployed?

That would add considerably to the complications of the supplementary benefit scheme while the Government's main aim (and yours) has been to simplify it. So what of the argument that this move would help reduce the poverty trap? This phrase was coined to describe the situation in which many low-paid workers find themselves when an increase in earnings results in a fall in income due to the overlap of the tax and social security system.

The most immediate way of freeing workers from the poverty trap is to increase child benefit. This move would also lessen any disincentive which may exist

amongst the unemployed to take jobs. Because child benefit is paid universally but deducted from social security payments, the bigger the child benefit the bigger the gap between income in work and entitlement on benefit.

All the more evidence we have about relative living standards shows that your proposal would amount to picking on that group which is in most need to additional help. For example the reports from the Supplementary Benefits Commission highlight the fact that it is claimants with children, and particularly those on the short-term rates, such as the unemployed who are most hard pressed and are least likely to obtain a decent minimum standard of living for themselves and their children. Against this group you propose to take penal measures which even governments in the 1930s refused to take.

Unemployment benefit was cut in the 1930s, but it was reduced less than the fall in prices. In other words, the real level of benefit rose. What you are proposing is to cut in real terms unemployment benefit for the first time for 50 years.

During the past five decades Britain has become appreciably richer, but obviously not more civilized. In the last budget the richest 7 per cent of tax payers picked up £1.5 billion. To help pay for this undreamt of bonanza to the rich you are now advocating real cuts in unemployment benefit. That is the measure of the miserable and sorry state to which a Thatcher Government has already reduced us.

Sincerely,  
FRANK FIELD,  
House of Commons,  
December 21.

### Adoption and fostering

From the Director of the Association of British Adoption and Fostering Agencies

Sir, The recent publication of the first report to Parliament on the writing of the Children Act, 1975, passed without comment from the press. Why?

Perhaps it is because so little of this vital piece of legislation has been implemented since it was enacted with such high hopes five years ago. Key provisions still awaiting action include adoption allowances, counselling, freeing procedures, outlawing of private placements and regulations to govern the review of children in care.

Perhaps most important, we still await Section 1, which requires local authorities to work with voluntary adoption societies to make a comprehensive adoption service. The resources for full implementation, we are told, will not be available "for a number of years". The thousands of mentally, physically and socially handicapped children in care deprived of a family do not have many more years. Further delay will deny to a whole generation of children in

care the benefits of a secure family life.

This continuing delay is ironic for three reasons. First, it has been perpetuated during the International Year of the Child, when priority should have been given to children. Second, whilst we have waited for more resources to be found in the statutory sector, the uncertainty surrounding the Act has contributed to the closure of 30 voluntary adoption societies during the 1970s. Fewer than 50 remain, and some of these are in danger.

Third, most of our work of the remaining provisions of the Act could be implemented either at no extra financial cost, or with only marginal changes in the allocation of existing funds. If a tiny fraction of the money used by local authorities to keep children in residential care could be switched to better use, the Act could be implemented immediately and thousands more children in care offered the permanence and security of a substitute family.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY HALL,  
Director,  
Association of British Adoption and Fostering Agencies,  
4 Southampton Row, WC1.

### From Mr Humphrey Fisher

Sir, Philip Howard (December 15), writes persuasively of the need to encourage Hellenic studies, and in particular the study of the Greek language, in our schools. He does not, however, refer to the Christian heritage in Greek. Yet it is here that at least a partial answer to his plea may lie, in the development of New Testament Greek as a serious subject at secondary school.

It is my impression that an appreciable number of young people might attempt a language-and-literature type "O" level paper in N. T. Greek, were such to be offered. N. T. Greek still survives as an option within one or two Religious Knowledge "O" level papers, but in this form caters only for R. K. candidates who are also taking classical Greek.

The Examination Board for Biblical and Religious Studies offers an opportunity to confuse their own small learning with the wider sciences, and events of history. As for Suetonius, he was best known as a historian addicted to scandal and title taste. The Professor's swipe at Senator Kennedy is ingenuously over-laboured, and his source for Galba's reported remark to say the least, questionable.

Yours sincerely,  
HUGH FRASER,  
House of Commons.

### Platform tickets

From the Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

Sir, Now the swinging biannual British Rail price rise is nearly upon us, it is not time that the anachronism of platform tickets disappeared like the erstwhile ransom for tea and biscuits for sleeping car passengers?

Recently, with a £50 ticket in my pocket to travel to Westbury, I found it ludicrous that I should be asked to pay paltry 12p for my wife and children to accompany me on Blackburn railway station, especially as I cannot afford to have the pleasure of their travelling with me. Moreover, it is surely a good public relations exercise for my youngsters to glimpse the real thing, especially the Victorian splendour of Blackburn railway station, already doomed to limbo

with its nostalgic whiff of mailbags and horse boxes.

British railways are pricing themselves out of family travel, surely they have a duty to allow the young to see an alternative form of travel to traffic jams, motorway snarl ups and Opec petrol prices. Can British Rail not only extend their cereal packet tickets but allow my family a glimpse of those luxuries which my employers afford to me and allow my son—free of charge—to glimpse the real thing rather than his Hornby HST? Besides, it is not a waste of time for one man to collect 12p off me on a deserted railway station on a Sunday, or better still pay him to stay at home?

Yours faithfully,  
P. F. JOHNSTON, Headmaster,  
Head Master's House,  
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School,  
Blackburn.

### Telling greeting

From Mr D. K. Persson

Sir, You can tell the introverts from the extroverts by whether they write "Merry Christmas" to be read inside or outside their windows. Yours sincerely,  
BOB PERSSON,  
42 Park House Gardens,  
Wickham,  
Middlesbrough,  
December 14.

### Putty in their claws

From Lady Cox  
Sir, Not only tinmice are addicted to putty (December 19). The mag-

pies of the Royal Forest of Dean delight in it.

Striding on tiptoe on the eaves of our newly glazed windows they stripped the lot to a height of nearly two feet.

Enraged, we concocted a mixture of putty, pepper and curry powder, which they also ate with gusto; to the so-called "metal putty" which went the same way.

Finally we used a new proprietary adhesive, a black gelatinous substance, which, so far the birds have found reasonably unpalatable. Your faithfully,  
ANNE COX,  
39 Shelders Way,  
Tadworth,  
Surrey,  
December 20.

## Hanging Turner's bequest

From Mr Robert Cumming

Sir, As it seems possible that a decision may soon be made on a gallery for Turner's oil paintings and watercolours, could it be less be recorded that the one person who will not get what he wanted is Turner himself? Turner's own wishes are, if not entirely clear, to the last detail, at least plain in general outline. They are contained in the various wills and codicils he made between 1831 and 1849.

What Turner primarily wanted was a trust fund (money not pictures) to help "decayed male British artists", and this wish remained unchanged to the end. Summarizing his changes of mind about his pictures, it seems clear beyond much dispute that his concern was with his "finished pictures" (Turner's own words), and that these were to be deposited and preserved by the Trustees of the National Gallery. He did not actually request that they be displayed, and there was no mention of his unfinished pictures or watercolours.

When Turner died, his relations disputed the will—they wanted the money destined for the trust fund. Turner's executors did not contest the will in court, but made a settlement with the relations, swapping the money intended for the trust fund for watercolours, drawings and sketches. Thus the so-called "Turner Bequest" came into being.

Turner's own wishes were to be respected, much of the Bequest would have to be sold to set up a Turner Charity, and it seems clear that Turner intended that works should be sold for this purpose. It may be right to show all Turner's work in isolation in one gallery. It may be wrong. It is a pity we cannot ask Turner; but one cannot help feeling that as he left only finished oil paintings to the National Gallery so that they would be at the heart of their great European tradition and context, he is somewhere shaking his head in bewilderment.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT CUMMING,  
Director,  
The Fine Arts Centre,  
63 Old Brompton Road, SW7,  
December 10.

### Blank expression

From Mr Miles Kingston

Sir, I am pleased to see that one of the paintings in the Post-Impressionist exhibition is by the little-known French, humorous writer Alphonse Allais, for if he is obscure as a writer he is even more obscure as a painter. The painting is one of his best, being a white rectangle titled "Anemic Girl Going to her First Communion in a Snow Storm". (Not his absolute best, though, which I think is his black rectangle called "Negroes fighting in a Cave at Night"). As these paintings date from the early 1880s they may well be the first abstracts ever painted.

Unfortunately, the white painting at the Royal Academy, which is labelled a Modern Reconstruction, has been hung—rather pinned—in the upright or portrait position. I have always understood that he painted in the landscape or wide-and-short-shape. This at least is how all his pictures are reproduced in his collected works, edited by the French scholar Francis Caradee. This means one of two things: either the modern reconstruction has been displayed 90° out of true (not 180° as I believe is normal with modern paintings) or it is based on a forgery. Either way, I think the Royal Academy owes the public an explanation. Yours faithfully,  
MILES KINGSTON,  
Punch,  
23-27 Tudor Street, EC4,  
December 14.

### Fests in flight

From Mr P. L. G. Bateman

Sir, Since Noah let the first pair board the Ark, cockroaches have been unwanted companions of passengers by sea to it is not surprising they are taking to the air as your unfortunate reader discovered (December 13).

Cockroaches plagued Blah on the Bounty and Drake found the Philip overrun with them. The airborne specimen was probably an American cockroach descended from specimens that reached our plantations with the slave ships from West Africa. They are great survivors and although the well-travelled shoe of a stewardess should never be devised, it has limitations as a method of cockroach control.

Most airlines now use more scientific pesticides applied by trained contractors, but it is surprising what some passengers unwittingly bring aboard with them. The most exciting I have come across was a scorpion.

Yours truly,  
PETER L. G. BATEMAN,  
Poyings,  
The Limes,  
Felbridge,  
East Grinstead,  
West Sussex,  
December 13.

### Without a grouse

From Mr A. P. Patterson

Sir, In the summer of 1974 you were kind enough to publish a letter from me which reported a fine cock pheasant in this garden. The event provoked considerable speculation from other correspondents as to its possible origin.

Through your absence this year I was unable to boast, at about the same time, the presence here of an English partridge. It stayed for just one day, feeding in the botanical order beds.

At this Christmas season we are wondering if the planting of a small grove of *Prunus communis* might not encourage a whole covey in the future. Yours faithfully,  
ALLEN PATTERSON,  
Curator,  
Chelsea Physic Garden,  
65 Royal Hospital Road, SW3,  
December 20.







## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## CLES moves into the carpet market

Embroidered English Stores, a retail outlet for handbags and chain, acquired M. Mercado, a wholesaler and importer, in a £2.7m takeover.

Mr. Lewis Mercado, who is managing director of the company, will also continue as a director with Mr. R. A. Ellis and Mr. J. Wharton.

Mr. Mercado made pre-

20 per cent of the additional amount provided that the total consideration does not exceed £3.4m.

Mr. Mercado, who is managing director of the company, will also continue as a director with Mr. R. A. Ellis and Mr. J. Wharton.

Mr. Mercado made pre-

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that period they will receive 20 per cent of the additional amount provided that the total consideration does not exceed £3.4m.

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Mr. Mercado made pre-

Mr. Mercado made pre-

Corporation for the whole of the issued ordinary and preference shares capital in Anthony Gibbs Holdings, which it does not already own.

Robert Fleming & Company are advising the Board of Anthony Gibbs Holdings.

Tractor development boost for BL

Investment in tractor developments is paying off for BL at its plant at Bathgate, West Lothian. Shipments are 8 per cent higher to world markets this year.

They are up by more than half to America. The share of the home market has risen by 21 per cent. Bathgate is to get a further £125m in investment over the next five years.

## H &amp; S Bank in talks with Antony Gibbs

The boards of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Antony Gibbs Holdings announce that discussions are taking place which may lead to a merger of the two banks.

Although the strong pound is

## Invisibles

## The City's growing earnings

Greatly to the City's credit, the general weakness of the pound and the upturn in exports has steadily grown. This is in contrast to the popular notion that the City's performance has been weak.

But that notion confuses the deficit on the public sector and income and dividend (IPD) parts of the City's earnings. The City's earnings have risen by 11.5 per cent in the first nine months of 1979, roughly twice the increase over 1978.

Aggregate published figures for earnings on services are a little

misleading because they include tourism, which is a large part of the City's earnings under this heading for the current year. Exports are expected to be a little below 1978's £1,000m because more has been spent abroad this year by British holiday makers.

More under the City's control, however, is shipping. For the first time in many years this account is negative, mainly because of the world slump in shipping. It may also be that the United Kingdom's share of international shipping is falling, though that is debated.

These two items aside, the City's invisible earnings continue to offset losses on capital account and on other parts of the invisible account. Net contributions over the last three full years are: 1976, £1,797m; 1977, £1,790m; 1978, £2,307m.

At the chief sections of the City's contributions to the invisible account—insurance, banking, and so on—growth will be maintained into next year.

Abolition of exchange controls is unlikely to make much difference. London was, after all, the effective

inventor of the Eurodollar market, and major exporters of capital such as big companies have always been keen to move funds if they wished. An improvement may result from more foreigners being attracted to the City by its now being an almost completely free market. But there are already some 300 United States banks in London, more than in New York, so a similar move by them is unlikely.

Whether the City will retain its international prominence as the United Kingdom's status in the world gradually sinks is a matter for conjecture. One view is that the less powerful the country is, the more the City will be a threat to emerging countries may prefer to use London's services rather than those of, say, New York. Still, financial centres are appearing all over the world, particularly in the Far East, the Middle East, and Latin America. The City's record is good. But it will have to stay on its toes if that record is to be preserved.

Michael Prest

## bond prices (yields and premiums)

Issue	Price	Yield	Premium
10% 1980	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1981	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1982	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1983	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1984	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1985	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1986	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1987	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1988	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1989	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1990	100.00	10.00	0.00

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10% 1986	100.00	10.00	0.00
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10% 1988	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1989	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1990	100.00	10.00	0.00

## List of fixed interest stocks

Issue	Price	Yield	Premium
10% 1980	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1981	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1982	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1983	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1984	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1985	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1986	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1987	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1988	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1989	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% 1990	100.00	10.00	0.00

## Wall Street

New York, Dec. 21. Stocks fell as the New York Stock Exchange index rose 0.35 to 61.73 and the average price per share 18 cents. The Dow Jones Industrial average dropped 4.43 to 338.51, bringing the index for the year to 3,385.10. Declines led advances 533 to 545 as turnover slowed to 36,160,000 from 48,380,000 yesterday.

## Silver in limit gains of 75 cents

New York, Dec. 21. COMEX silver futures, after a sharp rise, closed at a record of 34.75 cents.

Active Texas International rose 18 to 20 1/2. UNC Resources rose 1/2 to 1 1/2. Texas International despite a report, UNC which offered \$22 a share, lost 1/2 to 2 1/2.

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## Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
Bank of England	17 1/2
Bank of Ireland	17 1/2
Bank of Scotland	17 1/2
Bank of Wales	17 1/2
Bank of Cyprus	17 1/2
Bank of Greece	17 1/2
Bank of Italy	17 1/2
Bank of Japan	17 1/2
Bank of Korea	17 1/2
Bank of Spain	17 1/2
Bank of Sweden	17 1/2
Bank of Switzerland	17 1/2
Bank of the Netherlands	17 1/2
Bank of Belgium	17 1/2
Bank of France	17 1/2
Bank of Germany	17 1/2
Bank of Austria	17 1/2
Bank of Czech Republic	17 1/2
Bank of Slovakia	17 1/2
Bank of Hungary	17 1/2
Bank of Poland	17 1/2
Bank of Czechoslovakia	17 1/2
Bank of Yugoslavia	17 1/2
Bank of Bulgaria	17 1/2
Bank of Romania	17 1/2
Bank of Albania	17 1/2
Bank of Greece	17 1/2
Bank of Italy	17 1/2
Bank of Japan	17 1/2
Bank of Korea	17 1/2
Bank of Spain	17 1/2
Bank of Sweden	17 1/2
Bank of Switzerland	17 1/2
Bank of the Netherlands	17 1/2
Bank of Belgium	17 1/2
Bank of France	17 1/2
Bank of Germany	17 1/2
Bank of Austria	17 1/2
Bank of Czech Republic	17 1/2
Bank of Slovakia	17 1/2
Bank of Hungary	17 1/2
Bank of Poland	17 1/2
Bank of Czechoslovakia	17 1/2
Bank of Yugoslavia	17 1/2
Bank of Bulgaria	17 1/2
Bank of Romania	17 1/2
Bank of Albania	17 1/2

## J. H. Nightingale &amp; Co. Limited

8 Lower Lane, London EC3R 5ES. Telephone: 01-439 8651

## The Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Price	Yield	Premium
Airbus Group	75	6.7	8.9
Armstrong & Rhodes	219	4	13.8
Barton Hill	32	5.0	5.0
Deborah Ord	33	5.0	5.0
Deborah 171, CULS	90	7.9	8.8
Frederick Parker	107	12.8	12.0
George Blair	110	15.5	15.0
Jackson Group	118	7.2	6.2
James Burroughs	244	4.2	13.8
Robert Jencks	223	14.3	6.4
Twinlock Ltd	17	1.8	4.9
Twinlock 12, ULS	26	1.2	15.8
Unicredit Holdings	25	2.6	4.6
Walker Alexander	28	4.2	5.5
W. S. Yates	184	11.5	6.3
W. S. Yates New	185	11.5	6.3

Units prepared under provision of SSAP15

## Unit Trust Prices—change on the week FT Index change on week 419.5—114.2(26.2)

Unit Trust	Current Price	Change on Week	FT Index
100% Equity	100.00	0.00	419.5
100% Bond	100.00	0.00	114.2
100% Mixed	100.00	0.00	26.2
100% International	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Real Estate	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Commodity	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Hedge	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Alternative	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Special	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Global	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Multi-Asset	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Diversified	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Balanced	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Conservative	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Aggressive	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Speculative	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Moderate-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Very-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Very-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Ultra-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Ultra-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Extreme-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Extreme-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Super-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Super-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Mega-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Mega-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Giga-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Giga-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Peta-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Peta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Exa-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Exa-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Zetta-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Zetta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Yotta-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Yotta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Tera-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Tera-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Peta-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Peta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Exa-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Exa-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
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100% Zetta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
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100% Peta-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Peta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Exa-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Exa-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Zetta-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Zetta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Yotta-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Yotta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
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100% Yotta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
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100% Exa-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Zetta-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Zetta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Yotta-High-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% Yotta-Low-Risk	100.00	0.00	0.00
100% T			



(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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